TUESDAY
February 25, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

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- **2,000 medical students**
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Mumbai

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TEMPORARY TRUCE

Farmers put Feb. 25 Delhi March on hold

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Benchmark indices fall to 8-month low

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'TOP PRIORITY'

India, U.K. relaunch trade negotiations

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BSNL's profits has not made it profitable

Trouble on the income front persists

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ONE VICTORY, TWO KNOCKOUTS

NZ's win eliminates Bangladesh, Pakistan

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NEARBY

Residents seek action against illegal borewells

BENGALURU
Concerned about the rising instances of illegal borewell drilling, Whitefield residents are urging the BBMP and the BWSSB to coordinate and deploy personnel to patrol the ward. » Page 3

Man found dead in suspected stray dog attack

BENGALURU
A construction labourer was killed after a pack of stray dogs allegedly attacked him in Gangammanagudi police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Nagaraj, 22 from Raichur. » Page 2

Fresh hurdles delay rescue of 8 trapped in Telangana tunnel

A distance of 150 metres separates the rescue team from the workers as debris, water seepage come in the way; agencies explore possibility of removing debris around the damaged tunnel-boring machine; workers' condition remains unknown

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Uncertainty continued over the safety and survival of the eight persons – two engineers, two technical staff and four workers – trapped 14 kilometres inside the under-construction Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel near Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana, as on Monday their condition remained unknown even 60 hours after a portion of the tunnel collapsed on Saturday morning.

Despite round-the-clock work, fresh challenges prevented the joint rescue team of personnel from Central and State agencies from being able to cross the last 150-metre barrier. A few of them were able to reach the tunnel-boring machine (TBM), now covered with debris and mud, but could not use the equipment they took inside to trace the trapped men.

A team of Navy divers from Visakhapatnam discuss strategy at the mouth of the SLBC tunnel near Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

The 12-metre TBM head portion was said to be broken into two; there was a "safe container" in the head portion for workers to take shelter in emergency situations. It was not known whether they went into that container after the roof slabs came off and water seepage increased.

According to officials of the Telangana Irrigation Department, agencies involved in the rescue operation were reviewing the conditions at the TBM tailpoint and exploring the possibility of removing the debris around the machine, as it could lead to dislodgement of more mud and slush. Water seepage had only increased since the pre-fabricated reinforced cement-concrete slabs collapsed.

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ROUND-THE-CLOCK EFFORTS
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In poll-bound Bihar, Modi initiates fund transfer for farmers

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Narendra Modi with Nitish Kumar during a rally in Bhagalpur. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday initiated the transfer of ₹22,000 crore into the bank accounts of 9.8 crore farmers across the country under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, from Bhagalpur in election-bound Bihar.

Of the beneficiaries, more than 75 lakh farmers are from Bihar, where the Assembly election is due later this year.

Under the scheme, ₹2,000 was transferred to each farmer's account. This is given as the 19th instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme, which provides farmers with an annual income support of ₹6,000 in three equal tranches.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, other Union Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar were present at the function held on the Airport Ground.

The Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal criticised Mr. Modi, saying he was visiting the State in the "election year to shower lies and make empty promises".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Merz seeks to form a govt. with Germany's centre-left

Agence France-Presse

Germany's conservative election winner Friedrich Merz said on Monday he would seek talks with the centre-left to speedily build a government as Europe faces tectonic changes in transatlantic ties.

The Christian Democrats' (CDU) leader said he would reach out to the Social Democrats (SPD) of vanquished Chancellor Olaf Scholz with hopes of forging a stable ruling alliance of the two traditional big-tent parties.

After the surge of the far-right AfD, Mr. Merz said the mainstream parties must answer concerns of voters drifting to the fringes, calling the AfD's record 20% result "the last warning to the political parties of the democratic centre in Germany".

Friedrich Merz

Mr. Merz, 69, has said he wants a ruling coalition in place within two months so Berlin can act again on the European and world stage after months of paralysis since Scholz's coalition imploded in November. Mr. Merz, a committed trans-Atlanticist, said he would seek good ties with the United States under Donald Trump but was also ready for "the worst-case scenario". "All the signals we are receiving from the United States indicate that interest in Europe is decreasing," he said.

Mr. Merz also said he had a "lengthy" call with Emmanuel Macron late Sunday, as the latter headed to Washington to meet with Mr. Trump.

PLEDGE TO UNITE EUROPE
» PAGE 16
EDITORIAL
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Making the most of snow

Fun peaks: Holidayers frolic on snowmobiles on the slopes of Sonamarg as tourists take advantage of the snow-covered mountains, some 80 kilometres from Srinagar, on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

Court rejects Kerala BJP leader's bail plea in hate speech case

BJP leader P.C. George being taken out of court on Monday. VISHNU PRATHAP

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

A Kerala court on Monday remanded senior BJP leader and former legislator P.C. George in judicial custody for 14 days in a hate speech case.

Dismissing a bail plea moved by Mr. George, the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court (JFMC) in Erattupetta here held that there was no need to discuss the merits of the case at this point of time. "The only point to be considered now is whether this [bail] application has to be allowed or not," read the order by Judge Krishna Prabhan R.

After the verdict, Mr. George was shifted to the Government Medical College hospital, after a medical examination pointed to variations in his ECG report. The case against the BJP leader was filed based on a complaint by the Muslim Youth League, which alleged that his remarks during a television debate were inflammatory and could incite religious hatred.

He has been charged under Sections 196(1)(a) and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Section 120(o) of the Kerala Police Act.

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Ukraine says in 'final stages' of talks on mineral deal with U.S.

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine and the U.S. are working out details of an agreement that would give Washington access to Ukrainian natural resources in exchange for U.S. support, Kyiv said on Monday.

Negotiations have triggered tensions with U.S. officials pressuring Ukraine to sign a deal despite Kyiv's insistence that initial drafts lacked vital guarantees.

"Ukrainian and U.S. teams are in the final stages of negotiations regarding the minerals agreement. The negotiations have been very constructive, with nearly all key details finalised," Deputy Prime Minister Olga Stefanishyna said on X.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he aims at getting concrete security guarantees from the U.S. in exchange for granting access to critical resources.

U.S. President Donald Trump has demanded that Ukraine give access to rare minerals to compensate for the wartime aid Kyiv received under Joe Biden.

Ms. Stefanishyna said she hoped that Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy would sign the deal in Washington "to showcase our commitment for decades to come".

RUSSIA'S STAND
» PAGE 16

BBMP restructuring: House panel submits report, recommends two to seven corporations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Joint Legislative Committee, tasked with reviewing the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill (GBGB), 2024, has recommended restructuring the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into a minimum of two and a maximum of seven smaller municipal corporations. The committee, headed by MLA Rizwan Arshad, submitted the report to Assembly Speaker, U.T. Khader on Monday.

The GBGB 2024 was introduced in the Assembly in July 2024. Following legislators' demands for discussions, the 13-member Joint Committee was formed.

Each new corporation should have 100-125 wards with a Mayor's tenure set at 30 months, says the report. FILE PHOTO

The Speaker will present the report in the Budget session. According to sources, the panel has not recommended creating seven corporations at once and has left the decision to the government on the number based on prevailing circumstances.

The committee conducted multiple consultations with legal experts, urban planners, and the public. It also considered the recommendations of BJP members, a source said.

"Bengaluru is the economic hub of the country and a dream city for many. However, its current administrative structure is inadequate to meet its growing needs. Citizens have voiced the need for an alternative governance model, as a single BBMP cannot efficiently drive development," said a source who was involved in drafting the report.

Recommendations

BBMP covers a population of 1.51 crore over 870 sq.km. The report suggests forming a Greater Bengaluru Authority to coordinate among various civic agencies. Each new corporation should have 100-125 wards with a mayor's tenure set at 30 months. A separate Legislative Constituency Consultation Committee should be formed for better coordination, the panel recommended in the report.

The report says the formation of new corporations should be planned considering revenue collection. Each corporation should have complete autonomy, with mandatory elections within a set timeframe. The committee has also proposed measures to curb corruption.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority will be led by the Chief Minister, with the Bengaluru Development Minister as Vice Chairman. Existing agencies like BMRCL, BDA, and BWSSB will continue functioning independently.

The committee has suggested naming the new corporations based on geographical zones, such as Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, and Bengaluru West. Additionally, fully developed villages could be integrated into these corporations to streamline governance.

Hardik — the lethal weapon in India's white-ball armoury

The all-rounder's free spirit and the ability to laugh at himself hides the value he brings to the team apart from helping find the right balance; he is now at ease with his position in the side and is around to help Suryakumar or Gill as the group is headed towards a new core

REUTERS

R. Kaushik

Hardik Pandya loves a laugh. He loves laughing at himself too, a rare trait in a world where, increasingly, people take themselves too seriously. He is the maverick every team needs, a free spirit that is here, there and everywhere.

Like everyone else with an immense gift that many others feel is not being made optimum use of, Hardik will exasperate, even infuriate now and again. From the standpoint of Indian cricket, he is a rare and precious commodity - a genuine all-rounder who bowls seam-up. India have spread the net far and wide in a bid to ensnare a cricketer of this ilk, someone in the Kapil Dev mould (not the next Kapil because, of course, there can only be one Kapil) who can hold his own with the bat and with the ball, and who is an amalgam of grace, agility and athleticism on the field.

Hardik has all these traits in abundance. He is a free-flowing batter whose lithe frame effectively couches immense strength that comes from powerful forearms. His basics are strong and seldom highlighted because that is the lot of stroke-makers; without strong fundamentals, it is impossible to make meaningful runs in international cricket, never mind what the format is. Beyond the basics, he has a range of strokes that are the envy of several and even though he can score at a furious clip and hit gigantic sixes with seeming effortlessness, much of Hardik's batting revolves around the orthodox and the conventional.

It's his bowling, however, that excites, enthrals and exasperates in equal measure. Hardik fancies himself as an out-and-out fast bowler - his trysts with the 140 kmph-mark haven't been merely sporadic - who is convinced he can hustle batters with raw pace. He backs his short ball, his bouncer which he feels comes on to the batter a little quicker than they expect. It's a ball that has leaked plenty of runs, but it is also a ball that has brought him great success. How do you argue with someone who has so much faith in himself, so much belief in his abilities? How do you overlook someone of his credentials, a genuine match-winner in an Indian team replete with match-winners across the two white-ball formats?

The Kapil void

At one point, Hardik seemed primed to fill the Kapil void that had plagued Indian cricket for more than two decades. Within a year and a half of his white-ball debut in a T20I in Australia in January 2016, Hardik was donning the white flannels in a Test match in Galle, in July 2017. He smashed a 49-ball 50 on debut to announce his arrival and, two Tests later, hammered 108 off 96 deliveries in the third Test of that series against Sri Lanka in Pallekele. Of the 86 runs he eked out for the last two wickets with ten and Jack, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav respectively managed only 11 between them.

A year later in Nottingham, he picked up the first of what ought to have been several five-fors in Tests. He had a Test to remember, making 18 and 52 not out, taking five for 28 and one for 22, as India fought back after losing the first two Tests to win by a massive 203-run margin at Trent Bridge. A shame really, that he only played one Test thereafter, in Southampton two weeks later, and then faded away from the landscape of the longest format, thanks to a protesting body that wouldn't allow him to survive the sustained rigours of the five-day game for any reasonable period of time.

Hardik is practically lost to Test cricket - he recently made it clear to the deciding authorities that the red-ball game wasn't for him - but has loads to offer the two limited-overs setups where he has already established himself as an influential, game-changing individual. After a topsy-turvy several months when he went from India's T20I captain-in-waiting to a captain who might never be (in a long-term, permanent capacity), Hardik is now seemingly at peace with his position in Indian cricket's current scheme of things, where he is viewed as practically indispensable as a player but whose leadership capabilities are surplus to requirement.

What ought to have been a period of great promise and potential will have to be identified as the seminal turning point yet in Hardik's career. After two years helming Gujarat Titans on their entry into the Indian Premier League, Hardik moved to Mumbai Indians for Season 17 in 2024. It ought to have been a seamless return of the Prodigal Son. It was with Mumbai Indians that he first came into public consciousness, like Jasprit Bumrah, thanks to the eagle scouting eye of John Wright. It was there that he shot into prominence, made a name for himself, helped them to titles in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. If he left MI for a debutant franchise in 2022, it was to further his leadership aspirations, and there was nothing wrong with that.

With Gujarat, Hardik was phenomenal as batter and as captain/leader, even though he didn't bowl as much as previously. In the first year, he hauled them all the way to the promised land while in 2023, it needed a four off the final ball of the title clash for Ravindra Jadeja to swing the match Chennai Super Kings' way. Hardik had shown himself to be an able leader of men and taken charge of the Indian T20I team, specifically, in the time that Rohit Sharma sat out the format in the immediacy of the T20 World Cup in Australia in November 2022. From all indications, he would succeed Rohit as the Indian T20I captain, to start with, whenever Rohit decided to step away.

But Hardik's return to MI - as captain, no less - queered the pitch. He was received with loud boos as the Mumbai crowd made no secret of its displeasure at popular captain Rohit being given the heave-ho without so much as a thank you despite masterminding five title-winning campaigns. It wasn't Hardik's fault that he entertained aspirations of leading a high-profile franchise where he cut his teeth as a competitive cricketer, but the lack of transparency in the transition process infuriated the followers, who turned on the new skipper and held him up as the villain of the piece.

Booed at the Wankhede and booed at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, the base of the Titans, Hardik would have felt the world was against him, but he put on a brave face and got on with the job. After all, he had stared adversity in the face more than once and refused to blink, so why should this be any different?

One of the lowest points of Hardik's professional career came at the 2023 World Cup, which he began as among the few players capable of influencing the outcome of the tournament. His all-round skills gave India the great luxury of playing an additional pacer, or spinner, or batter, depending on the conditions. For the first three games, he was efficient without being explosive because he hardly got a chance to be that. Then, in match four against Bangladesh in Pune, he injured himself while trying to field a ball off his own bowling, an injury that ended his interest in the tournament.

Hardik did recover in time for the IPL, where he had a disastrous run as batter and captain. Rumours started to surface of a distance between him and Rohit, which wasn't ideal from Indian cricket's point of view, given that Rohit was the captain and Hardik his deputy at the 2024 T20 World Cup. Fortunately, there wasn't a great deal of truth to these rumours; Hardik was excellent in the Americas, fusing explosive batting with intelligent bowling and coming famously to the party in the crunch in the final against South Africa.

Stepping up

It was his dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen at the start of the 17th over which gave India an opening, and he himself stepped into that and completed the demolition job by accounting for David Miller and Kagiso Rabada in the last over of the title clash. A match that seemed entirely out of India's grasp was won by seven runs, Hardik more than repaying the faith with three wickets in his last two overs the icing on a cake of munificence throughout the competition.

Rohit's international retirement from T20s should have been the cue for Hardik to step up and assume the captaincy mantle, but that wasn't to be.

Suryakumar Yadav, at the time the No. 1 batter in the world in that format, was entrusted with the leadership responsibility, while the elevation of Shubman Gill as Rohit's deputy in ODIs indicates that Hardik's captaincy aspirations must be put on hold, potentially forever. It must have come as a bitter blow to someone who has made no bones about wanting to lead the country full-time, but Hardik has been around long enough to know that that's how the cookie crumbles sometimes and there is no point moping over something that isn't within one's control.

All Hardik can do now is hold his own as a cricketer, and as a leader without the tag of captain alongside him. He is now in the senior core group, and it's incumbent upon him to shape a brighter tomorrow while ensuring that the torch of success shines benevolently on him and his colleagues today. Against Pakistan, he showed smarts and common-sense while bowling eight lovely overs for just 31 runs and two big wickets, among them Babar Azam, in a grand exhibition of the art of bowling seam-up on a sluggish track. Only the start, hopefully, of another fortune-defining run in another global competition.

THE GIST

- Hardik is the maverick every team needs, a free spirit that is here, there and everywhere
- Hardik was excellent in the Americas, fusing explosive batting with intelligent bowling and coming famously to the party in the crunch in the final against South Africa
- The elevation of Gill as Rohit's deputy in ODIs indicates that Hardik's captaincy aspirations must be put on hold, potentially forever
- He is now in the senior core group, and it's incumbent upon him to shape a brighter tomorrow while ensuring that the torch of success shines benevolently on him and his colleagues

KARNATAKA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

"Beeja Bhavana", Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Ph: 080-23415652/23415656, Fax: 080-23415895

No: KSSC/IT&MIS/4759/2024-25 Date: 24.02.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Corporation invites expression of interest from the suppliers for supply of 4KUHD Touch Interactive Panel and necessary accessories. The interested suppliers can download the tender documents in e-procurement portal on **25.02.2025, 3:00 pm onwards. (1)** Pre-bid meeting date: **28.02.2025 at 11:30 AM. (2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **07.03.2025 up to 3:30 PM. (3)** Date of opening of technical bids: **10.03.2025 at 4:00 PM** at registered office and opening of commercial bid will be intimated later. More information can be obtained from the e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru

Tender Notification

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Work Indent & IFT No	Amont put to tender in Rs.
1	Construction of Minority Welfare Department, Morarji Desai Residential College at Yaramaras Camp, Raichur Town, Raichur District (New Creation/Upgradation) under PMJVK Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/ 2024-25/BD/work_ indent 453 & IFT No. 291/2024-25 Date: 18.02.2025	7,40,96,100/-
2	Construction of Minority Welfare Department, Morarji Desai Residential School at Sindhanur Town, Raichur District (New Creation/Upgradation) under PMJVK Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/ 2024-25/BD/work_ indent 454 & IFT No. 292/2024-25 Date: 18.02.2025	7,53,98,183/-

Last date for submission of bid **03.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM**

For more information contact below mentioned office address
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board,
Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore
Telephone No.: **080-22273511/ 080-22100077 web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/VCPL/5266/2024-25 Sd/-**Executive Engineer,** Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ2.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:47:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–02–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ 2.0– 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಒಟ್ಟು 12 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 02 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24–02–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 10–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 10–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 12–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.3 ರಿಂದ 12 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24–02–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 10–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 10–03–2025 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 12–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/787/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No. 19684 OF 2024
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

T. UDAYA KUMARI ...Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
T. KAILAS KUMAR AND OTHERS ...Respondent(s)

To:

1. **T. KAILAS KUMAR,** S/o Late V. Thammaiah, H.No. 740 (Ground Floor), 58th Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, District- Bangalore, Karnataka - 560010. PID: 43883/2025 For R[1] IN SLP(C) No.19684/2024 (SEC IV-A)
2. **S. PAVAN KUMAR,** S/o Late T. Surendra Kumar, R/o No. 730, 12th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, District- Bangalore, Karnataka - 560010. PID: 43884/2025 For R[3] IN SLP(C) No. 19684/2024SLP(C) No.19684/2024 (SEC IV-A)
3. **T. MANGALA KUMARI,** W/o D. Ramachandra, No. 217, 11th B Cross, 14th Main, II Phase, J.P. Nagar, District- Bangalore, Karnataka PID: 43885/2025 For R[4] IN SLP(C) No. 19684/2024SLP(C) No.19684/2024 (SEC IV-A)
4. **S. RAGHAVENDRA,** S/o Late S.K. Kumar And Late T. Annapurana, No. 740 (Main House), 58th Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, District- Bangalore, Karnataka - 560010. PID: 43886/2025 For R[5] IN SLP(C) No. 19684/2024SLP(C) No.19684/2024 SEC IV-A)

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for **EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING / CURING THE DEFECTS,** above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by **M/S. DEVASA & CO.,** Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court **on 27th August, 2024** when th Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Delay condoned.

We find no reason to interfere with the impugned order passed by the High Court on merit. However, taking note of the fact that the suit is for partition and separate possession filed between the family members, a short notice is issued only for consideration of referring to mediation alone."

AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before **Ld. Registrar's Court on 14th February, 2025,** When the following order was passed:-

" Service is complete on respondent no.2 but none has entered appearance.

Ld. Counsel for the petitioner has filed an application seeking substituted service by way of publication in respect of respondent nos. 1 and 3 to 5. Same is allowed. Affidavit along with proof of publication be filed within four weeks of such publication. List again on 02.04.2025."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf ***within 30 days*** from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why delay in refiling SLP be not condoned and Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI,S.C.R.2013 ***within 30 days*** from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated :19th February, 2025 ***Sd/-*** **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

No. BDA/EE(ID)/TEN/SE0059/2024-2025 Date: 24.02.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS

Tenders are invited from eligible tenderers by the Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, for the following work: **Name of the work: Providing cleaning and maintenance service to BDA Head Office for the period of one year (12 months).** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 116.23 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date and time for receipt of Queries: **03.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date and time of pre-tender meeting: **05.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs. (3)** Last date and time for receipt of tender: **14.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**

For more details please refer e-procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at office of the Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, Room No. 413, 'B' Block, 3rd Floor, BDA, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
BBMP, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Zone, Bangalore.

No: SADH/RRN/TENDER/02/2024-25 Dated: 21.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(SHORT TERM) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwari Nagara), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Doddabidarekallu-Ward No 26. Estimate cost : Rs. 24,16,000/-, EMD : Rs.48,320/-. Category : Others.
2.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Lingadeeranahalli-Ward No. 27. Estimate cost : Rs. 23,71,000/-, EMD : Rs.47,420/, Category : Others.
3.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Herohalli Ward No. 28. Estimate cost : Rs. 23,80,000/-, EMD : Rs.47,600/-. Category : Others.
4.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Bande Mutt Ward No. 31. Estimate cost : Rs. 63,35,000/-, EMD : Rs.63,350/-, Category : CAT-IIA
5.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in JP Park Ward No. 34. Estimate cost : Rs. 1,81,11,000/-, EMD : Rs.2,71,665/-, Category : Others
6.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Jalahalli Ward No. 36. Estimate cost : Rs. 52,38,000/-, EMD : Rs.52,380/-, Category : CAT-IIA
7.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Laxmidevinagar Ward No. 38. Estimate cost : Rs. 4,50,000/-, EMD : Rs.11,250/-, Category : Others
8.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Laggere Ward No. 39. Estimate cost : Rs. 24,11,000/-, EMD : Rs.48,220/-, Category : Others
9.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Kottigepalya Ward No. 41. Estimate cost : Rs. 18,08,000/-, EMD : Rs.45,200/-, Category : Others
10.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Srigandhadakaval Ward No. 42. Estimate cost : Rs. 52,26,000/-, EMD : Rs.52,260/-, Category : CAT-I
11.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Jnana Bharathi Ward No. 44. Estimate cost : Rs. 1,36,54,000/-, EMD : Rs.2,04,810/- Category : Others
12.	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Rajarajeshwari Nagar-Ward No. 45. Estimate cost : Rs. 67,43,000/- EMD : Rs.67,430/-, Category : SC
13.	Maintainence of Borewells in RR Nagara Assembly Constituency parks. Estimate cost: Rs. 25,00,000/-, EMD: Rs.25,000/-, Category : SC
14.	Maintainence of Borewells in Yashwanthapura Assembly Constituency parks. Estimate cost : Rs. 25,00,000/-, EMD : Rs.25,000/-, Category : SC
15.	Security Services to parks in RR Nagara Constituency. Estimate cost : Rs. 1,50,00,000/-, EMD : Rs.2,25,000/-, Category : Others
16.	Security Services to parks in RR Nagara Constituency. Estimate cost : Rs. 50,00,000/-, EMD : Rs.50,000/-, Category : ST
17.	Civil maintenance in Yeswanthpura Constituency Parks. Estimate cost : Rs. 50,00,000/-, EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-, Category : Others
18.	Civil maintenance in R R Nagara Constituency Parks. Estimate cost : Rs. 50,00,000/-, EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-, Category : Others

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification : **24.02.2025 (2)** Tender can be downloaded from : **27.02.2025 (3)** Pre bid Meeting : **04.03.2025, 12.30 PM (4)** Tender Closing Date : **06.03.2025, 5.00 PM (5)** Technical bid opening date : **07.03.2025, 11.00 AM Onward (6)** Financial bid opening date : **After Approval of Technical bid.**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone

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UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR

Estate Officer, UAS, Raichur

No. EO/UASR/TND- 179/2024-25 Date:-21-02-2025.

SHORT TERM E - TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item rate tender is invited on behalf of University of Agril. Sciences Raichur, as per KPWD standard document (KW-I) under two cover system from registered contractors of K.P.W.D. for the Civil works at Main Campus and Other Stations, through e-procurement platform. The details of the notification, schedule of events, and specifications can be had by visiting the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in there by registering with e-procurement platform.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:- (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders:- 01-03-2025 Upto 16:00 hrs. (2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid:- 03-03-2025 At 11:00 hrs. (3) Date &Time for Opening of Financial Bid:- 05-03-2025 At 11:00 hrs.

For more details, please contact the office of the under signed during office hours (Ph. No. 08532 - 220640) and visit the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed tender notification. Contact helpdesk number: 080 - 25501216 & 080 - 25501227

DIP/RCR/758/KSMCA/759/2024-25 **Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER, U.A.S, RAICHUR.**

DISTRICT HOSPITAL, TUMKUR

No.DHT/TRAUMA CARE CENTRE /09/ 2024-25 Dated: 19.02.2025.

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR VARIOUS STAFF (OUT SOURCE) FOR TRAUMA CARE CENTER AT DISTRICT HOSPITAL TUMKUR.

The District Surgeon, District Hospital, Tumkur inviting E-procurement Tender from eligible tenders viz. Authorized Agencies to provide the VARIOUS STAFF (OUT SOURCE) at TRUAMA CARE CENTRE, District Hospital, Tumkur as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 and Rules 2000.

Tender forms Issuing through online from Date :	20.02.2025 10.00 AM To 21.03.2025 04.30 PM
Forms Uploading Last Date :	21.03.2025 04.30 PM
Technical Bid Opening Date :	24.03.2025 12.00 PM
Financial Bid Opening Date :	27.03.2025 12.00 PM

Documents must be submitted in Two-cover System.

All other details and Tender conditions & Documents will be shown in website: http.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For more information contact office in working hours.

DIPR/TUM/RO-181/24-25/Oysters **Sd/- District Surgeon,** District Hospital,Tumkur.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAUGHTER of Swarna bai, Christal Monica Seles was changed to Crystal vide affidavit dated on August 10,2010 sworn before P.N. Gopalakrishnan, Krishnagiri.

I, SUNIL Gavaskar Shamappa Reddy, S/O: Shamappa Reddy, R/O: No–183, Kudlu Main Road, Near Venkateshwara Temple And Micro Lab, Kudlu, Bommanahalli, Bangalore– 560068. Have Changed My Name to Sunil Shamappa Reddy. Affidavit vide date on 22/02/25.

I, MUKESH Pandit Patil, Father of Aarya, R/O: F–1705, Brigade Matropolis, Garudachar Palya, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru– 560048. Have Changed my daughter Name to Aarya Mukesh Patil, Affidavit dated on 21/02/25.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KODALI Pravallika, R/at C/o Suneel Kodali, No.C1502 Valmark Orchard Square, Kothnur Village Main Road, JP Nagar 8th Phase, Bangalore-560076 have changed my name from Kodali Pravallika to Mondi Pravallika vide affidavit dated 22-02-2025 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, B'luru

I, MOHAMMED Nisar Abdul Shameem, R/o No.649, 2nd Main Road, 9th Cross, Vinobha Nagar, K G Halli, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Abdul Shameem vide affidavit dt: 20.02.2025 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore.

I, ZARINA, R/o Govindapura, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural-562123 have changed my name to Zareena vide affidavit dt: 20.2.2025 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mrs. KALPANA VIJAY KUMAR @ KALPANA REDDY, D/o Late Mr. N. Rama Reddy **& Mrs. PARVATHI REDDY,** W/o Mr. Vincent Vijay Kumar, age 59 years, R/o No. 344, II Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560 032 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **Ms. KALPANA REDDY** (Maiden Name) and **Mrs. KALPANA VIJAY KUMAR** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 22-02-2025, sworn before Notary Public **Mr. G. Dayananda** at Bangalore.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3450/2024-25 **Date: 24.02.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM III
(See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **"Formation of Road from Gear School to, Peripheral Ring Road via Gunjur palya, Varthur "** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the width of 45.00mtrs.

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bangalore Urban** Name of the Taluk : **Bangalore East** Name of the Village : **Gunjuru Village**

Sl. No.	Sy. No/ Khatha No.	Type of land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the land / plot & Extent in Sq.m.		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present activity on land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office. factory apartment, individual house etc.	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout/ developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor area Ratio			
1	Sy No.154/32, Khatha Sl No.241, M.C. No.241	Vacant Land			Converted Land		18.70		Sy No.154/31	Sy No.154/23	Remaining Portion of Sy No.154/32	Sy No.154/28	None	None	None	Vacant	50,000/-	Sri. Nanja Reddy S/o. Muniswamy Reddy R/a No.112 Bikkanahalli Villgage, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal, Bangalore-562125

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No. : ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional/branch office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3453/2024-25 **Date: 24.02.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Formation of road from Gear School road to Peripheral Ring Road via Gunjur palya, Varthur** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the **width of 45.00mtrs.**

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The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Gunjuru Village**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued.
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
1	Sy No.154/26, Khatha Sl No.41, M.C. No.41	Vacant Land		Converted Land	101.17		Sy No.154/20 & Sy No.25	Sy No.154/27	Sy No.154/19	Sy No.154/28	None	None	None	Vacant	50,000/-	Sri G.K. Nagaraja, S/o. Late G.A. Krishnappa, R/a No. 158, Gunjuru Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಜಿಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below.

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-,
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Grape and watermelon mela begins

Eight grape varieties and five varieties of watermelon are being sold at the mela at a 10% discount

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The annual 'Grapes and Watermelon mela' organised by the Horticultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing and Processing Society (HOPCOMS) was inaugurated on Monday at the HOPCOMS head office in Lalbagh, Bengaluru.

A wide range of watermelon varieties - Zigna Gold, Watermelon Yellow, Watermelon namesake, Wide watermelon, Kiran watermelon - and eight varieties of grapes - Grape T. S., Grape Australia Red Globe, Grape Krishna Sharad Super, Grapefruit (Jumbo Sharad), Grape T. G., Grape Bangalore Blue and Grapes (plames) - are being sold in the mela this time. The fruits will be sold at a 10% discount during the mela at all the HOPCOMS stalls in Bengaluru.

Visitors at the mela near Lalbagh, on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Jayaprakash, general manager, HOPCOMS, noted that most grape varieties, except Australia Red Globe, are Karnataka-based. When questioned about initiatives to support farmers, he explained that the organisation was created by a group of farmers and continues to operate with over 10,000 farmer members.

"A new agreement has been announced with the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF), which will enable residents of apartments to place direct orders via WhatsApp, which was earlier done manually. This is set to launch soon," he stated. He spoke about the challenges faced in selling these easily-perishable products, with spoilage rising to 20% in summer. "We are the only society organisation in India dedicated to fruits and vegetables. We have maintained and sustained quality, which has helped us receive customer support since 1959," he said.

Chikpete MLA Uday Garudachar, who inaugurated the mela, praised the sweetness and quality of the fruits and encouraged citizens to support HOPCOMS by purchasing from its stalls.

Construction labourer found dead, stray dog attack suspected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A construction labourer was killed after a pack of stray dogs allegedly attacked him in Gangammanagudi police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased, Nagaraj, 22, from Raichur, had been working at an under-construction house nearby.

He was walking home in an inebriated state when a pack of dogs reportedly attacked him. He sustained multiple bite injuries and died on the roadside. The incident came to light on Sunday morning when passers-by noticed him lying dead in a pool of blood and alerted the police, who reached the scene and shifted the body to a hospital.

A preliminary probe revealed that it was a stray dog attack, but the police are awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the cause of death. CCTV footage from in and around the area are being verfied to check for any foul play.

Meanwhile, BBMP officials said they are waiting for the postmortem report to confirm if it was indeed a case of dog bite death before taking further action.

On August 28, 2024, a 76-year-old retired teacher was killed after nearly a dozen stray dogs attacked her during her morning walk around the same area in North Bengaluru. The deceased was identified as Rajdulari Sinha, a native of Bihar, who had come to Bengaluru after her daughter married an airman.

The police had said 10 to 12 stray dogs had pounced on her and bitten her multiple times all over her body. A resident noticed the victim, rushed to her help and alerted her family. The elderly victim sustained multiple grievous injuries and died on the way to the hospital.

Constable held for raping minor who had come to file case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police have arrested a police constable among two for allegedly raping a minor girl who had come to the station to file a sexual assault case.

The victim, around 17-years-old, was initially lured by her neighbour, identified as Vicky, into a relationship but he allegedly sexually assaulted her repeatedly.

Unable to bear the harassment, the victim narrated her ordeal to her mother, who, accompanied her to Bommanahalli police station to file a complaint.

The accused constable, identified as Arun Thonepa, met the victim and offered to help her file the complaint to ensure punishment for Vicky and also to help her get a job. He allegedly befriended the victim and took her to a paying guest accommodation and hotel room and raped her multiple times. The accused also allegedly forced her to drink alcohol and later threatened that he had recorded the act and would upload it on social media if she revealed this to anyone.

The victim once again spoke to her mother, who approached the police and filed a complaint.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR against Arun and Vicky charging them under various sections of the POCSO Act and also under rape and criminal intimidation under BNS.

The duo was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.H.Arunkumar s/o Late Hanumanthappa** to bring the notice of the general public that following Original registered absolute sale deeds as : **1.** Absolute Sale deed bearing doc.No.BLN-1-35453/2004-05 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.BLND83, date.19.11.2004. & **2.** Absolute Sale deed bearing doc.No.BLN-1-04756/2006-07 of Book-I, Stored in CD No. BLND256 date. 22.04.2006, both deeds are registered in the office of the sub-registrar Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore are missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **Site Nos.58 & 59,** formed in Sy.No.43, previously Dasarahalli CMC Ward No.8 presently BBMP Ward No.14, situated at **Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 65 feet, in all measuring **3900 Sq.feet,** and bounded on : **East by : Road, West by : Property of Vishwanath, North by : Site No.57, South by : Daga Estate.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor, **For H.P.Law,** #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022 M : 7760061073

Science Day at JNC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous will host 'National Science Day 2025' on Thursday. It will be inaugurated by Chief Guest K.N. Ganeshaiah, an agricultural scientist and Emeritus Professor at the UAS, Bengaluru. The event will feature interactive exhibits, experiments, competitions, quizzes, and paper presentations.

Vehicles donated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) donated vehicles worth ₹38.16 lakh to Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) and the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (T&CC) at Victoria Hospital on February 19.

The donation includes four electrical buggies, two vehicles with stretchers, and two without stretchers to assist in the movement of patients, attendants, and medical staff within the campus.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 KARNATAKA BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 60/2024 IN OA No. 576/2021

KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED V/s RAVEENDRA KUMAR M

In the matter of (CH 1) Karnataka Bank Limited, RBDGT Building, Gubbi Thotadappa Road, Subhashnagar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 023
... Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder

Vs

(CD 1) Sri Raveendra Kumar M., S/o. Moodalagiriyappa, No. 4148, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, 14th Cross, Gayathrinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 021.
Also at : No. 212, 3rd Floor, 18th Main, Subramanyangar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 021
Also at : No. 1824 7th Main E Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 010
Also at : 2585, 11th A Main, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 010
Also at : 594, 2nd Floor, T Dasarahalli, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalroe, Karnataka - 560 057.
Also at : Venkatadri Nilaya Banninagara, Ranganath Nagar, Sira Tumkur, Karnataka - 560 057.
(CD 2) Sri Vishwanath V., , S/o. C. V. Reddy, No. 261, 2nd Stage, 13th Main, Swethamarga, Siddarth Nagar, Mysore, Karnataka - 570 011.
Also at : Sri Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapura - 562 101.
... Defendants/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-1) in **OA /576/2021** an amount of **Rs.1,67,26,339.64** (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven Lakhs Twenty Six Thousands Three Hundred Thirty Nine and Paise Sixty Four Only) along cost and future interest @12.95 % p.a. Compound interest monthly w.e.f. 16.06.2021 till realization and costs of Rs.153008 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty three Thousands and Eight Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Liability Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD 1): Sri Raveendra Kumar (CD 2): Sri Vishwanath V	Compound Interest (Monthly)	12.95% p.a.	16.06.2021	31.03.2023	Jointly and severally	16726339.64

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **22.04.2024**

Sd/- (P H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS) Recovery Officer-2, Debts Recovery Tribunal -1, Bangalore

Indian Railways
Research Designs & Standards Organisation
Lucknow-226011

Expression of Interest

Ministry of Railways, Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow, India is interested in developing specification for Battery having Low maintainability better energy density intended for engine starting application on WDG4/WDP4 series HHP diesel locomotives. Firms interested in developing and supply of said item are requested to see the details on RDSO website www.rdso.indianrailways.gov.in at HOME PAGE under 'EOI' appearing in RED.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3388/2024-25 **Date: 24.02.2025**

FORM-I
NOTIFICATION {Under Sec 14B(4)(i)}

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B (4) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by The CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE for **Widening of old airport road from Yamalur Junction to Varthur Kodi (SH-35) via Marathahalli, Kundalahalli & Ramagundanahalli (Phase-1) from Marathahalli Bridge to Munnekolalu Railway Bridge as per RMP-2015 for the width of 45.00m (Ch:1.300m to Ch:1.700).** It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose, to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz, (i) Sale /Partition / other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (V) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar band etc., in person in the place within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Date and Time
The Deputy Commissioner(LAQ & TDR) Room No: 208, 2st Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.	Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, Mahadevapura Division, BBMP	30 days from the date of Notification. Time : 10.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.
The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as DR (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the Market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.
The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

SCHEDULE

"Acquisition of land required for **Widening of old airport road from Yamalur Junction to Varthur Kodi (SH-35) via Marathahalli, Kundalahalli & Ramagundanahalli (Phase-1) from Marathahalli Bridge to Munnekolalu Railway Bridge as per RMP-2015 for the width of 45.00m (Ch:1.300m to Ch:1.700).**

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Munnekolalu**

Sl No	Sy No / Khatha No	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the land / plot and extent in sq.m		Boundaries of the land /plot				Building Details			Present activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sqm			Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued / already issued.
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sqm	Type ovf Construction and No. of Floors	Floor area Ratio		Agriculture/B-Khatha	Converted Undeveloped	A Khatha, Developed Site	
1	98	Vacant Land			-		225.59		Road	Sy. No 97	Remaining portion of Sy.no 98	Road	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Gomaala
2	Road	Vacant Land			-		94.48		Sy. No 100	Road	Remaining portion	Road	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Government
3	100	Vacant Land			-		187.13		Sy. No 101	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 100	Remaining portion of Sy.no 100	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Paapareddy and Ramegowda
4	101	Vacant Land			-		187.25		Remaining portion of Sy.no 101	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 101	Remaining portion of Sy.no 101	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Paapareddy N.G. Chandra Reddy S/o Lt. N.C. Guru Murthy Reddy and KIADB
5	102/1A	Vacant Land			-		565.90		Remaining portion of Sy.no 102/1A	Sy. No 102/1C	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 102/1A & 102/1C	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Salem Railway
6	102/1C	Vacant Land			-		222.58		Sy. No 102/1A	Sy. No 134	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 102/1C	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Most Revarend Dr. Barnaad Moras Arch Bishop of Bengaluru
7	134	Vacant Land			-		483.80		Sy. No 102/1C	Sy. No 135	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 134	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Karnataka Sahakaara Haalu Mahamandali
8	135/1	Vacant Land			-		200.66		Sy. No 134	Sy. No 135/2	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 135/1	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Krishna Reddy and others
9	135/2	Vacant Land			-		263.58		Sy. No 135/1	Sy. No 135/1	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 135/2	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Pushpa W/o Late Chandrashekar
10	135/1	Vacant Land			-		117.14		Sy. No 135/2	Sy. No 94	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 135/1	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Krishna Reddy and others
11	94	Vacant Land			-		58.51		Sy. No 135	Remaining portion of Sy.no 94	Road	Remaining portion of Sy.no 94	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	M. Paapaiah reddy S/o Munishaami and others
12	95	Vacant Land			-		587.49		Sy. No 94	Remaining portion of Sy.no 95	Road	Sy. No 96	-	-	-	-	14,826/-	58,117/-	83,025/-	Bengaluru Abivruddi Pradhikaara & Karnataka Sahakaara Haalu Mahamandali
							Total Extent to be Acquired (In Sq.m)	**3194.11**												

Note:
- **The Market value of Land shall be subject to land conversion and development status to be decided at Form-III stage based on production of documents from the Land Owners.**
- **The Building extent shall be verified at the time of Form-III Public Notice stage based on the Building Valuation and Benefits of Development Rights Rules, 2016**

Sd/-,
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Scientists propose tabletop test to check quantumness of gravity

Unlike Newtonian mechanics, where measuring a system doesn't alter it, quantum mechanics dictates that observing a system forces it into a definite state; this difference creates a way to test whether the system is behaving according to the laws of Newtonian or quantum mechanics

Debdutta Paul
BENGALURU

If a system undergoes measurement-induced collapse, it is said to live by the rules of quantum mechanics. Classical systems like falling apples or planets orbiting stars don't do this. Representative image. unsplash

General relativity and quantum mechanics are two highly successful theories. The former explains gravity and the latter teams up with special relativity to describe the other three forces of nature: electromagnetic, strong nuclear, and weak nuclear forces.

However, scientists don't know how gravity fits into quantum mechanics. In fact, they have been proposing experiments that can test the quantumness of gravity. On October 29, 2024, one such proposal appeared in the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

With concepts like superposition, illustrated by the Schrödinger's cat thought experiment, and entanglement, quantum mechanics defies classical intuition. Quantum mechanics also allows seemingly absurd phenomena, e.g. the measurement of a quantum system (like a particle) can cause the system to instantaneously 'collapse' into one possible state that described the system before the measurement.

In fact, if a system undergoes measurement-induced collapse, it's said to live by the rules of quantum mechanics. Classical systems like planets orbiting stars, cricket balls flying in the air, and cars on the road don't do this.

Ruling out alternatives

Multiple experiments have found that both quantum mechanics and general relativity are legitimate theories of nature – yet they remain incompatible with each other. This has encouraged physicists to try and come up with a larger theory that can accommodate both. One strong contender is string theory, another is loop quantum gravity. Both of them predict deviations from quantum mechanics and general relativity either at the beginning of the universe or inside black holes, meaning they're nearly impossible to test.

"So far, experimental tests are extremely difficult – the situation looks very bleak – it is not clear if it can be done at all," Dipankar Home of Bose Institute, Kolkata, and one of the authors of the new paper, said.

To check whether gravity is quantum mechanical, scientists need precise tests that rule out alternative possibilities.

Unlike the classical Newtonian mechanics, where measuring a system doesn't alter it, quantum mechanics dictates that observing a system forces it into a definite state. This isn't a matter of how carefully a physicist is making the measurement. The measurement will always collapse the state. So measuring the state versus not measuring it creates a way to test whether the system is behaving according to the laws of Newtonian mechanics or quantum mechanics.

As a first step, physicists said they needed an experiment where gravity helps an inherently quantum mechanical process happen. If gravity causes the state to collapse, it will be a sign that gravity behaves quantum mechanically.

The new study suggested the following design: a test mass is in a superposition of two possible paths it can take. A probe mass will interact with it gravitationally to force it to choose one of the paths. Here, both masses are in a superposition of which paths they take. These two paths come close, resulting in different distances between the two pairs of paths. That is, for each path of the test mass, there are two possible paths the probe mass can take.

"Such simple, yet novel proposals ... are very interesting to the community," said Sreenath K. Manikandan, a theoretical physicist at the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics, Sweden, who wasn't involved in the study.

Testing weak gravity

The idea is also interesting because it proposes to test weak gravity. Say you're performing an experiment where you're looking for light. If the light is bright, you can find it just by looking at it. But if it is very dim, you need sophisticated light-detecting cameras. Similarly, ideas to look for quantum gravity have so far involved strong gravity, like that near black holes, whereas the new test proposes looking for weak gravity, like the force near a small object.

"Our contention is that fundamental quantum gravity features can persist in this limit," Home said.

Igor Pikovski, a quantum gravity researcher at the Stevens Institute of Technology and Stockholm University, commended this: "The important lesson is that quantum gravity signatures might show themselves even ... in tabletop set-ups and not just in science-fiction scenarios."

But independent experts said the experiment is still challenging because the masses need to behave quantum mechanically.

Quantum properties usually show up in a measurable way in systems that exist at a smaller than microscopic scale, like inside atoms, whereas gravity is easier to measure around larger objects, like a building. This is why Vivishek Sudhir of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said, "Preparing a spatial quantum superposition of an object massive enough such that its gravitational force is also measurable is an enormous experimental challenge."

Experiments have found both quantum mechanics and general relativity are legitimate theories, yet they remain incompatible with each other, encouraging physicists to search for a larger theory to accommodate both

Creating a superposition

Bose et al. have proposed the use of masses weighing about one-trillionth of a gram while maintaining a separation of around one-tenth of a millimetre. Nanocrystals meet these criteria.

Yet the team still estimates a decade for their experiment to be conducted. Thus far, "the largest objects that have been placed in two places at once are macromolecules. We will have to place a nanocrystal, which is a billion times larger, in two places at once," Sougato Bose, one of the coauthors of the study, said.

"Creating this superposition is by far the main challenge," Debarshi Das, another coauthor, added.

To do so, the authors have proposed using a quantum property of the nanocrystals called spin. Simply speaking, the spin affects the nanocrystals' motion (and can be manipulated by an external magnetic field). The spin of each nanocrystal exists in a superposition of two states until it is measured. Since the state affects the nanocrystal's path, it also exists in a superposition of two paths until a measurement.

"Once prepared in such a state, the gravitational field produced by this configuration will need to be measured very rapidly," according to Sudhir. "This is because any spatial quantum superposition will be extremely fragile and will die quickly, [so] measurements have to be made before this happens."

Bose also said the nanocrystals can collide with gas atoms and other objects and forces in their environment, which could destroy the superposition. "This could include things like the gravitational forces from seismic activity in the earth or perhaps even those due to clouds moving in the sky," Sudhir said.

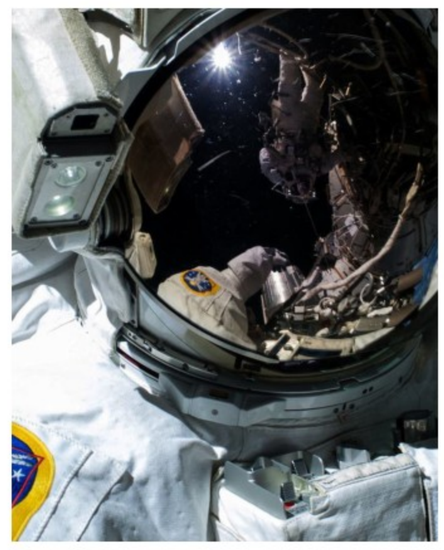
For these reasons, the experimental set-up will have to happen in a near-perfect vacuum and the masses' properties will have to be measured with extreme efficiency.

Despite all these challenges, physicists are hopeful. The proposed test has a much shorter timeline than the centuries required for humankind to develop the technologies to test quantum gravity near black holes.

Pikovski agreed the future is bright: "Just a few years ago, it was considered impossible to experimentally test quantum gravity even in principle."

The experts also said that the test may reveal gravity isn't a classical force, and that overall they will have to keep an open mind: it may not necessarily mean gravity is quantum but that it could be a non-classical and non-quantum entity, something different altogether.

(Debdutta Paul is a freelance science journalist. dbdttpl@gmail.com)



Long-duration missions require astronauts to live in confined and isolated environments. REUTERS

How does space travel affect health of an astronaut?

Reuters

The human body was not built for spaceflight, with its microgravity conditions, exposure to high-energy radiation, and other issues. As a result, trekking beyond the earth's confines causes many physiological changes that affect an astronaut's health.

Space travel exposes people to an environment different from the earth's, posing a range of physiological and psychological challenges, especially with prolonged exposure, according to Afshin Beheshti, director of the Centre for Space Biomedicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

As researchers seek new countermeasures to protect space travellers, more data is needed on astronauts with varying health backgrounds and undertaking different kinds of missions in order to map out personalised risk profiles and mitigation strategies, Chris Mason, a professor of physiology and biophysics at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, said.

Space travel exposes people to a different environment, posing physiological and psychological challenges, especially with prolonged exposure

Unlike on the earth, where the atmosphere and planetary magnetic field provide a shield from space radiation, astronauts are exposed to high-energy radiation permeating the cosmos. This can lead to DNA damage, increased cancer risk, neurodegenerative effects and immune system dysregulation.

The earth's magnetosphere provides some protection for astronauts in missions in low-earth orbit. But astronauts traveling beyond that, such as on missions to the moon, would experience much higher radiation doses.

Gravity plays a critical role in regulating bodily functions. Without gravity, bodily fluids shift upward, increasing intracranial pressure that can affect vision. The lack of mechanical loading on bones and muscles associated also leads to bone density loss and muscle atrophy. The cardiovascular system also changes, struggling to regulate blood pressure upon return. Prolonged exposure to microgravity conditions also affects the inner ear's ability to sense movement and orientation, leading to balance and coordination issues.

Long-duration space missions require astronauts to live in confined and isolated environments with limited social interaction and exposure to natural stimuli. This, Beheshti said, can lead to psychological stress, sleep disturbances, and mood disorders.

How astronauts recover after returning to the earth depends mostly on mission duration. For short-duration missions of a few days in low-earth orbit, about 95% of biological damage sustained appears to be reversed.

For astronauts who spend months aboard the International Space Station, recovery appears proportional to their time in space. Many physiological systems gradually return to normal. But some issues persist. For example, spaceflight-associated neuro-ocular syndrome has been linked to impaired vision due to microgravity-induced fluid shifts and changes in intracranial pressure affecting the eyes.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The small and big costs of surviving radiation

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
There are four ways to measure radiation dose. Of these, gray and X measure the absorbed dose whereas sievert and Y measure it in terms of its biological effect. Name X and Y, which are the corresponding non-SI units in these categories.

QUESTION 2
About 0.4 micro-sievert is the amount of radiation your body is exposed to every hour. What is the collective name for the source of this radiation?

QUESTION 3
Name the city in southeast China that is reputed for an area with a particularly high level of radiation — about 6.4 milli-sievert per year — as a result of rocks in the area being particularly rich in uranium and thorium.

QUESTION 4
For humans to be killed by radiation poisoning, the value of the ____ is 4,800 milli-sievert. Fill in the blank with a unit that denotes the amount of a substance required to kill half the members of a population.

QUESTION 5
Name the bacteria famed for being the most radiation-tolerant organism known in existence. It can withstand up to 30,000 gray of gamma rays — 6,000-times higher than the dose that could kill a human.

Visual question: Name this Canadian chemist of the Manhattan Project who died in May 1946 after accidentally, and infamously, setting off a fission reaction in close quarters and receiving a radiation dose of 21,000 sievert. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to February 20 quiz:
1. Ultra-light solid material made through supercritical freezing – **Ans: Aerogel**
2. Material invented by Maurice Ward to withstand high heat – **Ans: Starlite**
3. World's second-most used material after water – **Ans: Concrete**
4. Armour-grade aluminium compound that is transparent – **Ans: Aluminium oxynitride**
5. Atoms that make up stanene, a topological insulator – **Ans: Tin**
Visual: **Gallium**

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For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 25		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	04:21	SET 15:58
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	05:12	SET 16:58
THURSDAY, FEB. 27		
RISE	06:36	SET 18:28
RISE	06:00	SET 17:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	33	18
Bengaluru	32	19

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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Raksha Hegde

City student secures AIR 5 in JEE Paper 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Raksha Hegde, a student from Bengaluru, secured a score of 99.98 percentile in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2025, Paper 2 (B.Arch./B.Planning) results which were announced on Sunday. Apart from being the topper in Karnataka, she also secured an All India Ranking (AIR) 5.

Raksha, a student of Deeksha Vedantu, Bengaluru, said, "When I joined the college for I PUC, my teachers recognised my aptitude for architecture and encouraged me to nurture it. I am also going to write the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) and hope to secure top scores there as well."

Boy killed, mother injured in tree-fall

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-year-old boy was killed and his mother injured when a coconut tree in front of their house fell on them in Halaganahalli in Gauribidanur Rural police station limits on Sunday.

The deceased, Prithviraj, was playing in front of his house while his mother Monika was sitting outside when the tree fell, the police said. Monika was pregnant and had come with her son to her mother's house for delivery. She sustained multiple fractures and was admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru where she is recovering.

The Gauribidanur Rural police visited the spot and registered a unnatural death case. Further investigation is on.

Whitefield residents seek patrolling to curb drilling of illegal borewells

Between March 2024 and January 2025, the BWSSB received 6,110 applications for drilling of borewells. Of these, 1,260 were approved online and 160 offline

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Concerned about the rising instances of illegal borewell drilling, Whitefield residents are urging the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to coordinate and deploy personnel to patrol the ward, at least on weekends. The demand comes in the wake of an increase in mercury levels in the city.

Residents report that over the past two weeks, Whitefield has seen a sudden surge in illegal borewell drilling. Previously, two to three borewells were being drilled over a two-week period, but this has risen to eight. With summer approaching, the numbers are expected to increase further. Currently, residents are alerting the BWSSB to halt drilling, but as the instances grow, enforcement will become more challenging. To curb this rampant practice, residents insist that the BWSSB or BBMP deploy personnel for regular patrols.

Sandeep Anirudhan, an activist and resident, told *The Hindu* that over the past year, residents have reported more than 100 illegal borewells. However, due to official apathy, many were completed without proper intervention. He suggested that similar to the marshals deployed by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), the BWSSB or BBMP should assign personnel to monitor the area on weekends. He pointed out that illegal drilling typically takes place on Saturdays and Sundays when government offices are closed. He also urged the government to amend relevant laws for stricter enforcement.

Residents of Whitefield have alleged that illegal borewell digging has become rampant in the area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to data from the BWSSB, between March 2024 and January 2025, the board received 6,110 applications for borewell drilling. Of these, 1,260 applications were approved through the online process. Additionally, 160 applications were approved offline during the same period.

When asked about the number of cases registered against illegal drilling, a senior BWSSB official stated that the board does not maintain centralised data, as enforcement is handled by 68 different divisions. However, he admitted that only a few cases were registered in the past year, as lower-level officials primarily focus on halting the drilling rather than filing formal complaints.

Early action

Srinivas Reddy, another resident, agreed that patrolling is a good measure to enforce the law, but cautioned that authorities must ensure the initiative does not lead to corruption. Currently, when residents alert the BWSSB about illegal drilling, officials intervene and halt the process. However, drilling often resumes a day or two later, raising suspicions of bribery, he alleged. Mr. Reddy recalled that last summer, unchecked drilling led to a drastic drop in groundwater levels, stressing that the BWSSB must take timely action this year.

Sonnappa T., a government school teacher and resident, stated that he has flagged several illegal borewells on the ward's Whatsapp group. The main issue, he noted, is the delayed response from the BWSSB; by the time officials arrive, half of the drilling is already complete. He suggested that deploying personnel would be an effective immediate measure. He also proposed that marshals, who have a proven track record in enforcing waste management regulations, could be assigned to this task.

Slum-dwellers seek dedicated department, ₹5,000 crore allocation in State Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Slum residents from across Karnataka staged a day-long protest, under the banner of Slum Janandolana Karnataka, at Freedom Park on Monday demanding the establishment of a dedicated department for slum development and an allocation of ₹5,000 crore in the upcoming State Budget.

They demanded the withdrawal of a circular issued by the Karnataka Housing Department (KHD) in September 2023, which mandates the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) to seek government approval before notifying any new slum areas.

Citing Sections 3 and 11 of the Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1973, the circular has effectively stalled the notification of new slums. Protesters argued that this has severely impacted slum-dwellers, as without formal notification, these areas remain deprived of essential development initiatives.

Chandramma, convenor of Savitribai Phule Mahila Sanghatane, told *The Hindu*, "There are approximately 709 slums on private land across the State that lack basic infrastructure. Unless they are formally notified, the KSDB cannot initiate any development work," she said.

She said before the Assembly elections, the Congress promised to notify private slums. However, instead of fulfilling this promise, the government's recent actions have worsened the situation.

Fighting for their rights: Members of Slum Janandolana Karnataka staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Title deeds

Despite the ongoing struggles, the KSDB has made some progress in issuing title deeds. According to Miss Chandramma, the board has distributed title deeds to 1.64 lakh families living in notified slum areas. However, many are still awaiting legal recognition of their dwellings.

KSDB data accessed by *The Hindu* reveals that 3.37 lakh families currently reside in 1,821 notified slums across Karnataka, covering 8,626.31 acres. Activists say while title deed distribution is a positive step, more comprehensive measures are needed to ensure the rights and welfare of slum residents.

A. Narasimhamurthy, State Convenor of Slum Janandolana Karnataka, stated that nearly 40% of Karnataka's population reside in slums, yet they are denied access to urban infrastructure and services. He stressed the need for the government to take immediate action to address both economic and social inequalities.

"In order to bring meaningful change, the government must establish a dedicated department for slum development and allocate ₹5,000 crore in the Budget. Additionally, legislative amendments to the Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1973, are necessary to incorporate the various demands of slum dwellers," he said.

Mr. Narasimhamurthy also called for the implementation of a job guarantee scheme to economically empower slum residents. Further, he urged the government to instruct the Revenue Department to allocate land for the relocation of slum dwellers living in unsafe and hazardous conditions. The officials from the KSDB met the protesters and promised to look into the matters.

IMA scam: Victims to receive compensation before Ramzan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has stated that all depositors who lost their money in the multi-crore IMA (I Monetary Advisory) scam will receive their due compensation before Ramzan began. A discussion was held on Monday regarding the total amount involved in the IMA scam, the value of movable and immovable assets seized so far, the amount refunded to victims over the past seven years, and the timeline and method for compensating the remaining victims.

Over 1,00,000 depositors had invested ₹3,213.58 crore in IMA in hopes of doubling their money, but they were defrauded. The total number of depositors was 69,069, out of which ₹1,400 crore had been returned as dividends from time to time. After the scam came to light, ₹19.12 crore from the company's accounts was distributed to 6,858 victims at ₹50,000 per person in April 2022, as per the orders of a special court. On November 8, 2023, ₹66.66 crore was credited to 53,142 victims' accounts. On May 23, 2024, ₹1.28 crore was credited to 626 victims' accounts, according to an official release. On November 7, 2024, ₹36.14 lakh was credited to 276 victims' accounts. In total, ₹87.43 crore has been credited to the accounts of 60,902 victims so far.

The government has already seized more than 10 properties linked to IMA, with movable assets valued at ₹106.92 crore and immovable assets estimated at ₹401.92 crore. Additionally, ₹2.88 crore was seized from various company bank accounts, along with ₹11.72 crore in cash and ₹11.06 crore in investment certificates, bringing the total seized amount to ₹534.5 crore. Minister Krishna Byre Gowda stated that, following the directive of Justice Nagaprasanna's bench, these assets will soon be auctioned, and the proceeds will be distributed to investors.

The meeting was attended by Minister Zameer Ahmed, MLA Rizwan Arshad, Chief Minister's Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed, and several victims of the IMA scam. Minister Krishna Byre Gowda assured the victims that steps would be taken to distribute compensation based on the proportion of their investments at least ten days before Ramzan.

Assured relief for eligible victims

When the IMA scam surfaced, the government provided victims the opportunity to submit online applications to claim compensation. Active bank accounts linked to financial transactions with IMA were considered official proof, while those with inactive accounts were required to submit deposit receipts, share certificates, or similar documents.

The submitted information was cross-verified with IMA's records and Aadhaar data to identify eligible beneficiaries. In cases where the primary depositor had passed away, the compensation was arranged to be transferred to their nominated beneficiaries.

BBMP to set up 100 leaf composters in parks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to set up 100 leaf composters to generate compost from fallen dry leaves. The work is under way at 100 parks in the city.

With summer approaching, fallen dry leaves have started accumulating across the city. To manage this efficiently, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has asked officials to identify designated locations for leaf collection and removal. Measures will be taken in coordination with Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) to maintain cleanliness, Mr. Giri Nath said at a meeting at the head office.

As part of a green initiative, BBMP has commenced the work to set up 100 leaf compost units in selected parks of the 1,280 parks that fall under its ambit. These units will facilitate the on-site conversion of fallen leaves into compost, which can then be utilised for plant and tree maintenance within the parks. The project is expected to be completed soon.

A dry leaves compost bin at Cubbon Park. FILE PHOTO

Report on borewells

Chairing a meeting with officials, Mr. Giri Nath emphasised the need to assess the operational status of borewells in all parks under the civic body's jurisdiction. Officials have been instructed to identify functional and non-functional borewells and submit a detailed report at the earliest. In parks where borewells are defunct, alternative water supply arrangements must be made immediately, he said.

Mr. Giri Nath also directed officials to coordinate with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to utilise treated water from sewage treatment plants and transport it via tankers for tree and sapling maintenance. With the onset of summer, he stressed the urgency of ensuring sufficient water supply for plants in parks, lakes, and medians, urging officials to compile a requirement list of water tankers.

Horticulture fair from February 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Arka Shreyas Bottle Gourd, which is resistant to Gummy Stem Blight and will provide a yield up to 48 tonnes per hectare, Red Dragon Fruit powder, and Arka Jackfruit frozen patties, are some of the horticultural innovations that will be on display at the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) at ICAR - IIHR from February 27 to March 1.

The theme this year is 'Horticulture for Vikasit Bharat - Nutrition, Empowerment and Livelihood'. The focus will be on promoting varieties and technologies which will help in improving nutrition levels in the country.

"The event is focused on technologies suitable for socio-economically deprived groups and to improve productivity, income and livelihood from horticultural crops, which are socially compatible, economically acceptable and environmentally safe," said Tusar Kanthi Behera, Chairman, organising committee and Director ICAR-IIHR.

HC permits probe against badminton player Lakshya Sen, family members

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has permitted the investigation against badminton star and Arjuna awardee Lakshya Sen, his elder brother Chirag Sen, also a badminton player, their parents, and a coach in a criminal case registered against them on alleged age fabrication. "When *prima facie materials* are placed on record which constitute the offences, I do not find any reason either to stall the investigation or to quash the initiation of criminal proceedings," Justice M.G. Uma observed dismissing the petitions.

The court noted that the complainant had submitted before the court sufficient material including documents obtained through the Right to Information Act from the relevant authority.

The brothers, along with their father, Dhirendra K. Sen, who was a coach with the Sports Authority of India (SAI), mother Nirmala D. Sen, and coach U. Vimal Kumar, had questioned a First Information Report registered against them in December 2022 on a private complaint by one Nagaraja M.G.

The FIR was registered on a direction by a metropolitan magistrate on December 2, 2022, but the High Court, in an interim order on December 22, 2022, stayed the probe.

It has been alleged in the complaint that the ages of the brothers were fabricated by their parents and Mr. Kumar to enable them to play in the junior categories of badminton tournaments since 2010.

The accused had fabricated the birth certificate to lower the ages of the brothers by two-and-a-half years, it has been alleged in the complaint, while claiming that an enquiry by the Ministry of Youth Affairs had found the father "guilty of the charges of fabricating the records".

However, the petitioners have claimed that baseless allegations were made to humiliate them as Mr. Nagaraja's daughter did not meet the criteria to join Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in 2020. The issue of age fabrication was closed as the Central Vigilance Commission in 2018 accepted the birth records submitted by Mr. Dhirendra and concluded that no action was required against him, and the complainant had not disclosed this aspect, the petitioners claimed.

Meanwhile, the court noted that the advocate for the petitioners had not argued the case despite granting sufficient opportunities. Before dismissing the petitions, the court had set a deadline for their advocate to make arguments on a couple of dates since December 2024 but the advocate had sought time citing certain reasons.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Hindu pilgrims who arrived in Pakistan from India

109 Over 100 Hindu pilgrims from India arrived in Lahore on Monday to attend religious festivities at Shri Katas Raj temples in Pakistan's Punjab province. The Hindu pilgrims have come from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Rajasthan to visit their holy places. PTI

Saudi Arabia's commitment to polio eradication efforts

500 In $ million. Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its $500 million pledge to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the WHO said. The funds, pledged in April 2024, will be used to help end the wild form of polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and stop outbreaks of variant polio. REUTERS

The population of Iraq, as per its first Census in 40 years

46.1 million persons. The final results of Iraq's first Census in nearly 40 years released on Monday show the population has reached 46.1 million. In 2009, an unofficial count estimated the population at 31.6 million. Officials have called the count a milestone. AP

Number of people killed in eastern DRC since January

7,000 The Congolese premier said that violence raging in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has killed "more than 7,000 compatriots", many of them civilians. The M23 armed group has seized large swathes of eastern DRC. AFP

The increase in growth of shipments of personal computers

3.8 In per cent. The growth in the Indian consumer PC market has been on an upward trajectory, driven by gaming and AI-powered PCs. HP led the market with a 30.1% market share in 2024 and a 30% share in the December quarter. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are pilots asking for more rest hours?

Why were the relaxed rules brought out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in 2024 opposed by airlines? How many days of leave do pilots get? What has the Delhi High Court ruled with respect to duty norms for pilots?

EXPLAINER

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

After at least a year-long tussle over the new relaxed duty norms for pilots brought out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Delhi High Court on February 24, ruled that a vast chunk of these rules would come into effect from July 1, 2025. This brings to a close a six-year battle in Delhi High Court waged by pilot unions against the punitive provisions of the DGCA's 2019 norms that raised permissible night flying from one night to two consecutive nights, slashed rest periods including for ultra-long range flights, and allowed airlines special dispensation for utilising pilots during unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or emergencies.

What did the High Court rule?

The Delhi High Court ruled that a vast chunk of the liberalised duty and rest norms for pilots that were unveiled in January 2024, but put under abeyance after opposition from airlines, would come into effect from July 1, 2025. These include provisions such as increased weekly rest from 36 hours to 48 hours. Airlines would also be required to submit quarterly reports of fatigue complaints filed by pilots as well as subsequent action taken by airlines to the DCGA.

Some of the more contentious provisions have been postponed for implementation on or before November 1. This includes the new definition of night duty – 00:00 hrs to 05:00 hours being widened to 06:00 hours – which would bring down the quantum of night flying as pilots can't be rostered for more than two consecutive nights of flying. The number of landings for flights encroaching night duty will be capped to two; while on night duty pilots can also not be assigned more than eight hours of flying duty or 10 hours of total duty that encompasses pre and post flight tasks. The special dispensation given to airlines in the event of unforeseen circumstances has been tightened where the additional duration for which pilots can be utilised has been brought down from three hours to two hours, and their rest in such events has been raised.

Pilots were forced to go to Delhi High Court in May 2024, after the DGCA put its own January 2024 rules on hold because of stiff opposition from airlines. Several airlines had told the DGCA that provisioning for more rest and reduced flying would require them to hire more pilots which would need time, in the absence of which there could be flight cancellations and increase in airfare.

The volte face from the DGCA though came after it had admonished airlines for engaging in scaremongering and pressed for an urgent "wake-up call" as there had been incidents of pilot deaths "ostensibly due to punishing rosters". On August 17, 2023, IndiGo's Captain Manoj Balasubramani died due to a cardiac arrest at the boarding gate of Nagpur airport minutes before his flight to Pune.

Why are there demands for rest?

Following the resurgence in travel post COVID-19, pilots say their share of daily flying has increased considerably, which includes upto four landings in a day that entail a flying duty of upto 10 hours and total duty period of 12-13 hours. As approaches and landings demand a higher level of concentration and complex decision-making, more flights mean a substantial increase in workload.

Since a change in DGCA's rules in 2019, airlines are also allowed to deploy pilots on two consecutive nights of flying, which is one of the most staunchly opposed provisions because it requires pilots to stay awake against their natural body clock, with the window of circadian low, between 2am and 6am, being the toughest. When these night flights are combined with 3-4 landings per day involving a duty period of 10 to 13 hours, pilots are often at their tether's end. With low-cost carriers massively increasing their short-haul international flying over the past decade, there has been a spurt in night flying. Over the years, this has become more hectic with airlines removing hotel rest at the destination, and requiring pilots to operate the return leg to improve cost and manpower efficiency. Pilots are known to overshoot their mandatory duty hours on routes in the Gulf such as to Bahrain and Jeddah.

While pilots typically fly between 50 to 90 hours in a month, their monthly duty period that include pre and post flight tasks could be upto 140-150 hours. While this may seem like a much lighter schedule than the average 200 hours a month for anyone working a 9-5 job, there are many factors that need to be considered. For instance, the legal entitlement of weekly rest within 168 hours provided by the DGCA implies that pilots get their weekly off only on the eighth day. There are no public or government holidays and only six casual leaves, 12 sick leaves and 30 privilege leaves (Air India) which have to be applied for a year in advance. IndiGo provides 42 PLs to pilots in command, and 22 to First Officers. This may also be due to the nature of the business that requires rostering and commercial teams to ensure sanctity of flight schedules which have been sold to passengers.

Then there is the cockpit environment that makes flying fatiguing. These include factors such as movement restriction, poor air flow, low light levels, background noise, and vibration as well as multiple cycles of changes in oxygen pressurisation requiring one's body to constantly adjust to rapid shifts resulting in fatigue. Automation has replaced hands-on flying in the cockpit, making greater demands on the crew to perform vigilant monitoring which is tiring.

Erratic or unstable rosters in some airlines are widely infamous for disturbing how pilots plan their rest. For example, a 10am reporting time could be rescheduled to 4pm duty time that concludes at 2am allowing one little window for rejigging their pre-flight rest after waking up at 6am or 7am. Alternating night and day shifts, unlike a fixed night or duty shift for a specific number of days, where the human body's natural circadian rhythm struggles to adjust to disruptions, does take its toll.

While the DGCA norms are broadly based on those framed by the U.S. and European aviation regulators, the Federation Aviation Administration and European Union Aviation Safety Agency, pilot unions underline that these are only prescriptive outer limits that are further negotiated by various airline unions, whereas cockpit crew in India have no such negotiating power as their unions are not recognised by airlines, who enforce only the upper thresholds laid down by the DGCA.

The impact of the exacting rosters is such that pilots are known to sleep inside the cockpit for 1.5 to 2.5 hours even on domestic and short-haul international flights of upto five hours

Add to these, the revised contract implemented by Air India and Air India Express since 2023, where pilots get a fixed pay equivalent to 40-hours of flying, down from 70-hours earlier, further pushing pilots to fly more to earn more.

What do the airlines say?

"Air India is committed to the safety and wellbeing of its crew members and has been implementing robust fatigue management protocols. Fatigue Management is a key area of our operation, and we follow a comprehensive Fatigue Risk Management (FRM) process to assess any such report. This involves engaging the bio-mathematical fatigue tool (Jeppesen Boeing Alertness Model -BAM) for risk analysis and a dedicated review committee – Fatigue Safety Action Group (F-SAG) – besides, sustained monitoring by the regulator," the airline spokesperson told *The Hindu*. They added that they also have a non-punitive, confidential nature of fatigue reporting system for proactive and transparent feedback from the pilots. There was no response from IndiGo on its fatigue management practices.

Air India has over 3,500 pilots, which it said was more than adequate for the existing fleet and the "current" DGCA norms on pilot rest and duty times.

While there is a surge in travel demand, allowing airlines to raise airfares and witness record profits, they are also faced with the need to closely watch their costs as airport tariffs have gone up post-pandemic and an acute shortage of new aircraft due to supply-chain challenges has pushed the cost of the few available on lease by 20-30% higher than in 2019. Profit margins in airline business are slim, and according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), net profits are expected to be $36.6 billion in 2025 with a 3.6% net profit margin which translates into average net profit per passenger being $7.0. Flight crew salaries and expenses account for the third biggest cost for airlines globally at 8.7% of the total cost.

There were 11,775 pilots employed across airlines in the country as of November 2024, with a fleet size of nearly 800 aircraft. As the world's fastest growing aviation market, which has 1,000 aircraft on order between Air India and IndiGo alone set to be delivered by 2035, the demand for more pilots is expected to continue to grow and so will efforts to optimise their utilisation.

Long hours: An Air India aircraft takes off as an IndiGo aircraft waits at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad, in 2017. REUTERS

THE GIST

- The Delhi High Court ruled that a vast chunk of the liberalised duty and rest norms for pilots that were unveiled in January 2024, but put under abeyance after opposition from airlines would come into effect from July 1, 2025.
- Following the resurgence in travel post COVID-19, pilots say their share of daily flying has increased considerably, which includes upto four landings in a day that entail a flying duty of upto 10 hours and total duty period of 12-13 hours.
- The impact of the exacting rosters is such that pilots are known to sleep inside the cockpit for 1.5 to 2.5 hours even on domestic and short-haul international flights of upto five hours

Public meeting by BJP-backed outfit passes off peacefully

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The public meeting by BJP-backed Rashtriya Suraksha Janandolana Samiti to protest against the February 10 stone-pelting incidents outside the Udayagiri police station in Mysuru passed off peacefully on Monday after the city police modified its prohibitory orders in the wake of the conditional permission given to the samiti by the Karnataka High Court.

Earlier in the day, the city police imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Act 2023, across the city after denying permission to the samiti to take out a 'Mysuru chalo' rally from Gun House circle to Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple. Police permission had been denied to Dalit Mahasabha

BJP leader N. Mahesh speaking at a meeting in Mysuru on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

and Mysuru District Youth Congress, which planned a counter-protest along the same route on Monday against the "efforts of the BJP to incite violence for political gains".

A large number of police personnel were deployed around Gun House circle and the route to Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple.

Security was beefed up in sensitive areas while check-points were set up at various entry points to the city. BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, former MP Prathap Simha and former Minister N. Mahesh were among the BJP leaders, who had gathered at a hotel just outside Mysuru while awaiting permission from the HC.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Ashok hit out at the Congress government for protecting "fanatic Muslims" who had pelted stones at the Udayagiri police station. He accused the State government of appeasing the Muslims for the sake of vote-bank politics. However, Mr. Ashok left for Bengaluru before the HC granted conditional permission for the meeting.

High Court permission

Meanwhile, the city police modified its prohibitory orders after the High Court permitted the BJP-backed samiti to hold its public meeting from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at a football ground adjacent to Maharaja's College by imposing certain conditions.

The conditions included a warning against making provocative speeches or hurting religious sentiments of any groups.

No permission was given for a rally while it was made clear that the organisers would be held responsible for any untoward incident taking place during the public meeting.

The other conditions included video-recording of the entire public meeting and furnishing of a security bond for ₹1 lakh.

During the public meeting held at the football ground of Monday evening, Mr. Mahesh said the BJP respected the Constitution and was holding the public meeting only after securing permission from the court.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

State Bank of India Donated 4 Electrical Buggies to Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute & Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, Bengaluru

State Bank of India Donated 4 Electrical Buggies- 2 vehicles with stretcher and 2 Vehicles without stretcher to Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute & Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, Bengaluru amounting to Rs.38.16 lakhs. As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)initiative, Smt Joohi Smita Sinha, CGM, Bengaluru Circle handed over 4 Electrical Buggie vehicles to Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute & Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, in the Victoria hospital campus having an area of 86 acres, to help in the movement of patients, patient attendant's and doctors to move within the Campus. The Ceremony was Attended by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, General Manager Network- 1 and other senior dignitaries from SBI, Bengaluru Circle, Dr. Balaji S Pai, Special Officer, T&ECC and Dr. Ashima Banu, Nodal Officer, & Principal, BMCRI have expressed their gratitude to State Bank of India for its support on this occasion.

Joyalukkas renovated newly showroom in Dickenson Road, Bengaluru.

The world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas inaugurated the newly renovated showroom in Dickenson Road, Bengaluru. The Showroom has been inaugurated by Mr. Rizwan Arshad (MLA, Shivajinagar) in the presence of Dr. Nandakumar Jairam (President (RBANM's Educational Charities), Mr. Thomas Mathew (Executive Director, Joyalukkas), Mr. Henry George (COO, Joyalukkas), P.D. Jose (GM-Jewellery, Joyalukkas), Mr. Rajesh Krishnan (DGM, Retail, Joyalukkas), Mr. Jinesh (Regional Manager) and other dignitaries.

Joyalukkas Grand New Showroom inaugurated in HSR Layout, Bengaluru

Recently the world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas inaugurated the grand new showroom in HSR layout, Bengaluru.

The showroom was inaugurated by Mr M Satish Reddy MLA Bommanahalli Vidanasabha Kshetra in the presence of Mr Thomas Mathew Executive Director, Joyalukkas, Mr Henry George COO, Joyalukkas, Mr P D Jose GM-Jewellery, Joyalukkas, Mr Rajesh Krishnan DGM, Retail, Joyalukkas and other dignitaries. The Joyalukkas brand believes in adhering to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism at all times. As a world-class jewellery chain, it aspires to be the best in product, design, value and service for clients. Please do visit the stunning new showroom in HSR Layout, Bengaluru, and experience luxury like never before!

Sri Paripoorna Sanathana Charitable Trust's Commitment to Holistic Healthcare for National Security Forces

Sri Paripoorna Sanathana Charitable Trust® has again demonstrated its unwavering dedication to holistic healthcare by successfully organising a comprehensive medical camp for the Border Security Force (BSF) unit in Bangalore. This commendable initiative carried out under the esteemed guidance of Prof. Dr A V Srinivasan, Chief Functionary of the Trust and CM of Sri Paripoorna Sanathana Ayurveda Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre. The medical camp witnessed the active participation of skilled doctors and interns from the institution, highlighting the Trust's commitment to integrating traditional healing sciences with modern healthcare practices. Recognising the importance of this initiative, Prof. Dr A V Srinivasan has expressed profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Inspector General of BSF, Bengaluru, for entrusting the institution with this noble responsibility. The event was further marked by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BSF and Sri Paripoorna Sanathana Charitable Trust®, a significant step toward institutionalising traditional healing practices within the framework of mainstream healthcare for national security personnel. By extending its expertise to national security forces, the institution has reaffirmed its position as a leader in holistic healthcare, setting an example for other Ayurveda institutions to follow. The Trust remains resolute in its commitment to improving the health and well-being of India's security forces, ensuring that the nation's protectors receive the best care rooted in India's rich medical heritage.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Vijaypur, Jammu-184120

Notification for Non-Faculty Posts (on Deputation Basis)
Employment Notification No. 02/2025

Applications are invited in the prescribed Proforma for filling up of the Non-Faculty Posts (On Deputation Basis) mentioned hereunder for **AIIMS, Vijayapur, Jammu**.

S. No.	Name of Posts	Group	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	No of Vacancy
1.	Assistant Controller of Examinations	A	(Level-11)	01
2.	Nursing Superintendent	A	(Level-11)	02
	Total			**03**

For other details, application form and terms & conditions, please visit the AIIMS Jammu website **www.aiimsjammu.edu.in** under the head **"Recruitment"** Duly filled in application (through proper channel) along with attested photocopies of ACRs/APARs for the last 5 years and vigilance clearance should reach to the undersigned on or before 30 days from publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. In case of any query, mail can also be forwarded to **recruitmentcell@aiimsjammu.edu.in**

Sd/-
Registrar
For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
अति अल्पकालीन ई0–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई– पुनर्निविदा सूचना संख्या – **RDD/SD/SAHIBGANJ /13RE/2024-25**

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०/ग्रुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	साहेबगंज जिला के पतना प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत शहरी में सुगनीवासा एवं बारूटोला के बीच करनी नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	**328.86000** लाख रूपये	6,58,000/- रूपये	10,000.00 रूपये	18 माह
2	साहेबगंज जिला के राजमहल प्रखण्ड के दरला पंचायत अंतर्गत डहरू कुमार जर्जर पुल के स्थल पर पुल निर्माण।	**476.99100** लाख रूपये	9,54,000/- रूपये	10,000.00 रूपये	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 27.02.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 27.02.2025 से दिनांक 08.03.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 10.03.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9431347401 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
साहेबगंज।

PR 347144 Rural Development
(24-25)D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2024-25/90
Dated : 14-02-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for point 110 shifting at Chikjajur Yard.	Rs. 10,58,421.78

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 10-03-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction
PUB/801/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for Printing of school magazine for APS ASC C & C. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of 250/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 26 Feb 2025 to 03 March 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). 05 March 2025 at 1130 AM

Presiding Officer
For School Management

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, पीजीआईएमएसआर एवं अस्पताल
सेडम रोड, कलबुर्गी, कर्नाटक – 585106
फोन: 08472-265546/47/48, ई–मेल: deanmc-gb.kar@esic.nic.in
क.रा.बी.नि. E.S.I.C.

सं.: 532/GLBMC/A/12/12/Contractual Appointment/2025 दिनांक: 18.02.2025

सूचना

प्रोफेसर, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर, सहायक प्रोफेसर और वरिष्ठ रेजिडेंट की नियुक्ति के लिए वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू

प्रोफेसर, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर और सहायक प्रोफेसर **(एक वर्ष/तीन वर्ष)** और सीनियर रेजिडेंट **(एक वर्ष)** के पद के लिए अनुबंध के आधार पर नियुक्ति के लिए वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू **27.02.2025 (दस्तावेज सत्यापन) और 28.02.2025 (साक्षात्कार)** को ईएसआईसी मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल, कलबुर्गी में आयोजित किया जाएगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट **www.esic.nic.in/recruitment** पर जाएं। हस्ता/–
डीन

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
9th floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009,
Tele-:080-23118888 Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in e-mail: rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

Short Term Tender notification (Through e-Procurement portal)

Date: 24.02.2025

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through e-procurement from the eligible contractors.

Last date of submission of bid is Date: 04.03.2025 upto 16.00 hours

Name of work :-

Sl. No.	Place	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	"Construction of Moulana Azad Model School / College (04 No's) in different Taluk of Belagavi District" – G+2 truss and galvanized and poly carbonate sheet roofing works at second floor - Package – 1 (Hukkeri – 1, Chikkodi – 2, Bailahongal -1) (Fixed Price No Variation)" Indent No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT3/CALL-2	1611.50	16.11 (1 Lakh D.D and Rs.15.11 Lakh B.G)
2.	"Construction of Moulana Azad Model School / College (08 No's) in different Taluk of Kalaburgi District" – G+2 truss and galvanized and poly carbonate sheet roofing works at second floor - Package – 2 (Chittapura – 3, Chincholi – 1, Kamalaura – 1, Aland-2, Afzalpur--1) (Fixed Price No Variation)" Indent No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT4/CALL-2	3226.00	32.26 (1 Lakh D.D and Rs.31.26 Lakh B.G)

further information visit : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/-
General Manager (S D)

DIPR/CP/5273/Zen/2024-25

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail: bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22074610/604/613/624/625

BGRR/PvtSale/2024-25 **NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD** 24/02/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-03-2025 as shown below:

Br. Channapatna: Anugraha Towers, 8th Cross, B M Road, Kuvempunagar, Channapatna, Ramanagara- 562 160, Ph. 080-27251885 :-
16486300002352,16486300009191,16486300010751,16486400201243,16486300002584,16486300009274,16486300010801,16486400203934,16486300002667,16486300009456,16486300010819,16486400205665,16486300002683,16486300009472,16486300010850,16486400206424,16486300003475,16486300009563,16486300010884,16486400219062,16486300003715,16486300009720,16486300010918,16486400219070,16486300003780,16486300009738,16486300010942,16486400219088,16486300004317,16486300009753,16486300011007,16486400206960,16486300004325,16486300009787,16486300011049,16486400214162,16486300004481,16486300009852,16486300011072,16486400205939,16486300004523,16486300009878,16486300011106,16486400210467,16486300004697,16486300009910,16486300011130,16486400209360,16486300004911,16486300009928,16486300011148,16486400179159,16486300004978,16486300010017,16486300011155,16486400207950,16486300005207,16486300010025,16486300011171,16486400108786,16486300005272,16486300010058,16486300011239,16486400207190,16486300005322,16486300010124,16486300011270,16486400211135,16486300007930,16486300010199,16486300011320,16486400142082,16486300008037,16486300010207,16486300011387,16486400201409,16486300008045,16486300010215,16486300011510,16486400204981,16486300008052,16486300010231,16486300011536,16486400169440,16486300008326,16486300010306,16486300011551,16486400211762,16486300008342,16486300010314,16486300011569,16486400214444,16486300008474,16486300010330,16486300011643,16486400209618,16486300008540,16486300010363,16486300011684,16486400202357,16486300008631,16486300010488,16486300011692,16486400208719,16486300008904,16486300010496,16486300011726,16486400208727,16486300008938,16486300010520,16486400219724,16486400208735,16486300009043,16486300010611,16486400207919,16486400208875,16486400209725,16486300010645,16486400221308,16486400208883,16486400211242,16486400209634,16486400210145,16486400189414,16486400204304,16486400205368,16486400217546,16486400209923,16486400212471,16486400211184,16486400209808,16486400210558,16486400201367,16486400202852,16486400209097,16486400208917,16486400208958,16486400109040,16486400209105,16486400210707,16486400209980,16486400186121,16486400209931,16486400213230,16486400210004,16486400212869,16486400204494,16486400206663,16486400213362,16486400203611,16486400212315,16486400211622,16486400201508,16486400204437,16486400209543,16486400211119,16486400212273,16486400204692,16486400209550,16486400217553,16486400210913,16486400209824,16486400205434,16486400209949,16486400212158,16486400217587,16486400208453,16486400186410,16486400218825,16486400219328,16486400213040,16486400189778,16486400210111,16486400211150,16486400214667,16486400208016,16486400206333,16486400211077,16486400217991,16486400210400,16486400166222,16486400204882,16486400209675,16486400207299,16486400187483,16486400202290,16486400208933,16486400210814,16486400213602,16486400202662,16486400209113,16486400210822,16486400214956,16486400203207,16486400209345,16486400201961,16486400188036,16486400188721,16486400206085,16486400209733,16486400208669,16486400185610,16486400211390,16486400207463,16486400212323,16486400211283,16486400211267,16486400207489,16486400212331,16486400211408,16486400215706,16486400207497,16486400205541,16486400213057,16486400210749,16486400211044,16486400198480,16486400217090,16486400211739,16486400202613,16486400206135,16486400188929,16486400216308,16486400202621,16486400206143,16486400209303,16486400216886,16486400210392,16486400206846,16486400182955,16486400206069,16486400206200,16486400209915,16486400187202,16486400206077,16486400206150,16486400153576,16486400187798,16486400206457,16486400210954,16486400211341,16486400203025,16486400204858,16486400179266,16486400207158,16486400210665,16486400205566,16486400217488,16486400204544.

Br. Chambanahalli: Sy no 82,Next to ISME College, Sarjapura Road Chambenahlli, Taluk Anekal, Dommasandra Post, Bangalore- 562125,Ph. 080 22712227:- 21646400046103,21646400043845,21646400046236,21646400044462,21646400043548,21646400046723.

Br. Handpost: Sy. No. 34/1A, Yerahalli Taluk, HD Kote, Mysore- 571 114 Ph No. 08228-255225 :-
21726100067573,21726400211897,21726400156274,21726400161225,21726400161357,21726400167040,21726400167941,21726400168865,21726400169095,21726400176884,21726400183088,21726400188293,21726400188871,21726400189739,21726400189762,21726400190505,21726400190562,21726400190653,21726400191412,21726400191958,21726400211921,21726400192675,21726400192816,21726400193616,21726400193673,21726400193871,21726400194135,21726400194564,21726400195033,21726400195629,21726400197286,21726400197294,21726400203613,21726400203647,21726400204082,21726400204942,21726400205402,21726400205469,21726400219601,21726400205675,21726400222480,21726400206178,21726400206392,21726400206996,21726400211780,21726400207358,21726400207366,21726400207911,21726400208018,21726400208273,21726400208661,21726400208836,21726400209008,21726400209123,21726400209222,21726400209370,21726400209495,21726400209933,21726400210162,21726400218736,21726400210303,21726400210345,21726400211525,21726400212085,21726400211624,21726400211293.

Br.Hunsur: BM Road, Opp. Vijaya Bank, Hunsur, Mysore Dist., Karnataka- 571 105 Ph No.08222252968 :-
19896400064606,19896400064333,19896400065538,19896400063939,19896400062923,19896400064309,19896400065009,19896400036091,19896400062964,19896100231588,19896400064978,19896400049482,19896400062972,19896400064911,19896400061842,19896400063467,19896400063657,19896400064960,19896400065447,19896400068417,19896400060919,19896400064952,19896400065603,19896400064861,19896400064259,19896400064127,19896400065629,19896400062402,19896400046405,19896400064358,19896400065611,19896400063889,19896400036414,19896400064135,19895500004983,19896400068409,19896400037248,19896400063392,19896400065132,19896400068391,19896400064366,19896400065694,19896400054888,19896400068433.

Br.Kengeri: Building No 737, Kommaghatta main road, Kengeri satellite town, Bangalore Urban- 560 060 :- 19646400159025,19646400173810,19646400174057,19646400174446,19646400186622,19646400187349,19646400187562,19646400175641,19646400175765,19646400183876,19646400160726,19646400175971,19646400176052,19646400176060,19646400161005,19646400176086,19646400188156,19646400176151,19646400123724,19646400176300,19646400176318,19646400173620,19646400188602,19646400176573,19646400176656,19646400186051,19646400186069,19646400186077,19646400158142,19646400176680,19646400176995,19646400160486,19646400177167,19646400177191,19646400177225,19646400177290,19646400141577,19646400147731,19646400158381,19646400158423,19646400166418,19646400170493,19646400170717,19646400170923,19646400171012,19646400171749,19646400171764,19646400172770,19646400173364,19646400179239,19646400181003,19646400183694,19646400183736,19646400184791,19646400192265.

Bangalore 24-02-2025 **Vice President & Zonal Head**

KEYWORD

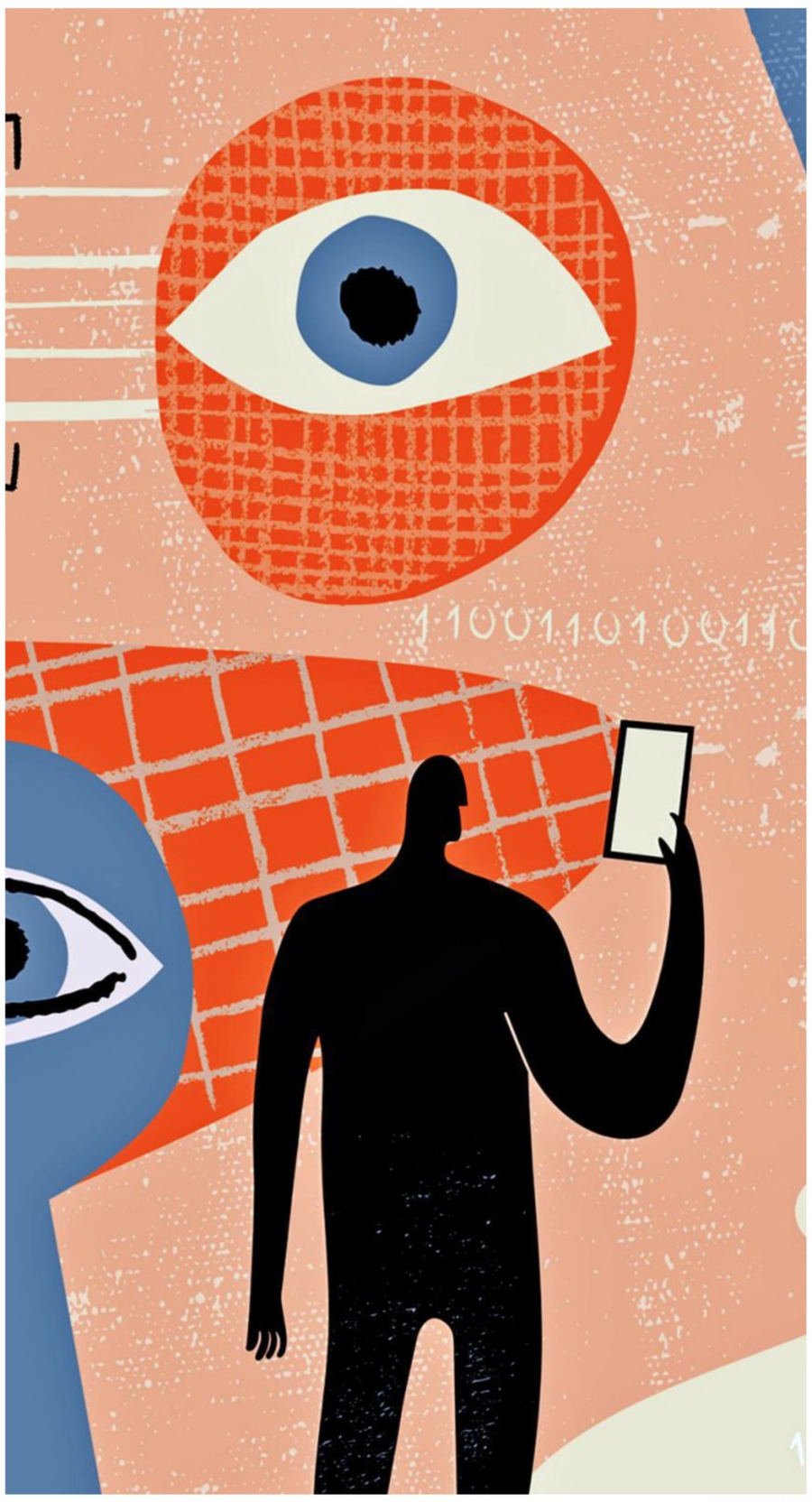
Surveillance capitalism: the power to control personal data

A look at how surveillance capitalism relies on the commodification of personal data; its impact on privacy and autonomy; and its deep ties to state surveillance

Rebecca Rose Varghese

A was chatting with B and C in a social media group about an upcoming wedding she was attending. She casually mentioned needing a new dress and some accessories. Later that evening, as she scrolled through her social media feed, she was bombarded with advertisements for dresses, shoes, and jewellery – precisely like the ones she had described. Have you ever experienced this? And if you have, do you wonder how and why this happens, and whether your private conversations can be accessed by some other entity?

In simple terms, this is exactly what happens under surveillance capitalism. Surveillance capitalism is an economic system in which personal data is collected, analysed, and sold by tech conglomerates to predict and manipulate human behaviour. This system is so integral to the digital economy that it has reshaped capitalism itself, as American author and professor Shoshana Zuboff argues in her 2018 book *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. She describes surveillance capitalism as a new economic order that expropriates human experience for data-driven profit, and compares it to earlier exploitative systems like colonialism and industrial capitalism.



GETTY IMAGES

The concept

Unlike traditional capitalism, which revolves around goods and services, surveillance capitalism extracts human experience as raw material to mine data, predict behaviour, and influence decisions. This data is sold to advertisers, political campaigns, and other entities. Companies like Google, Meta, and Amazon have turned the internet into a vast surveillance machine, tracking and monetising every click, search, purchase, and in some cases even offline movements.

Zuboff describes the power from extensive data collection as instrumentarian power –control that does not rely on coercion but which subtly shapes behaviour. This is achieved through predictive analytics, recommendation algorithms, and targeted content, nudging individuals towards actions that benefit corporations. Alex Pentland's concept of social physics further illustrates how analysing vast datasets of human interactions reveals patterns, allowing corporations and policymakers to model, predict, and influence collective behaviour. This makes individuals more predictable economic actors, reinforcing surveillance capitalism's role in shaping consumer choices and social trends while prioritising profit over autonomy.

Different from past forms

Surveillance capitalism differs fundamentally from industrial capitalism. While industrial capitalism relies on labour and material production, surveillance capitalism profits from behavioural data extraction. Instead of tangible goods, companies commodify human experience, making users both consumers and raw material for data-driven predictions.

Under industrial capitalism, companies focus on efficiency, productivity, and the exploitation and control of labour in manufacturing. Surveillance capitalism, however, is about controlling behaviour. Algorithms keep users engaged and guide them toward choices that benefit tech giants. This system prioritises data collection over autonomy, making every interaction a chance for monetisation.

One of the most concerning aspects of surveillance capitalism is its entanglement with state surveillance. Governments increasingly rely on private tech companies for intelligence gathering, policing, and social control. Instead of developing independent surveillance infrastructures, states now have access to vast amounts of privately collected data, which they can obtain through legal means such as data-sharing agreements or extra-legal methods. The collaboration between corporations and states creates a system where the private sector's profit motives and public security interests align, at the expense of individual privacy and civil liberties. This reduces democratic accountability, as much of this surveillance happens within private corporations, beyond public scrutiny. Policies that favour deregulation and corporate autonomy allow this model to persist with minimal oversight, reinforcing a structure where both states and corporations benefit from mass surveillance while individuals face increasing risks of data exploitation and loss of autonomy.

Eroding autonomy

Surveillance capitalism's reliance on extensive data collection has created a fragile and interconnected digital network. The sheer volume of data flowing through corporate and state surveillance systems mean that disruptions in one area can lead to cascading failures across multiple sectors. This systemic fragility becomes evident during major data breaches and algorithmic failures, which have led to real-world consequences such as financial instability and misinformation crises.

A notable example is the Cambridge Analytica scandal, where vast amounts of Facebook user data were harvested without consent in 2014, and used to build a system that could target voters in the U.S. with personalised political advertisements. This demonstrated how personal data, when exploited, can influence democratic processes, reinforcing concerns over the unchecked power of surveillance capitalism.

The pervasive data monitoring and predictive analytics employed by corporations further erode personal autonomy. Every action online is recorded, analysed, and used to refine behavioural predictions. Over time, users are subtly conditioned by algorithmic content, influencing their preferences and decisions in ways that serve the interests of advertisers and tech corporations rather than their own. While this seems harmless, it slowly erodes autonomy, allowing those in power to shape individual thinking for their benefit.

Challenges in regulation

Despite growing awareness of the dangers of surveillance capitalism, regulatory frameworks struggle to keep pace with technological advancements. Laws such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) attempt to give users more control over their data. However, these regulations fail to address the core issue – the commodification of personal information. This is largely because existing legal frameworks are designed to manage data privacy within traditional capitalist models rather than protect individuals from the structural impact of surveillance capitalism.

Moreover, corporate lobbying and political interests, particularly those in power, bungle these efforts as surveillance capitalism is highly beneficial for them. The rise of tech leaders as politicians is also an example of the interplay between surveillance capitalism and the surveillance state. When tech giants gain increasing influence over policymaking, they ensure that regulations remain favourable to their business interests. This dynamic makes it difficult to implement meaningful restrictions on data collection and behavioural manipulation. The blurred lines between political authority and corporate power reinforce the dominance of surveillance capitalism, limiting accountability and individual autonomy.

The concept of surveillance capitalism is crucial as our lives become increasingly entangled with technology. It serves as a warning of the potential dangers if we are not cautious and if states fail to implement proper regulations and restrictions on what private companies can access and use. This is an academic concept that must be widely discussed to bring about meaningful policy changes. Recognising its impact enables individuals to critically engage with digital platforms and demand stronger protections for their privacy and autonomy.

Rebecca Rose Varghese is a freelance journalist.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Urvasi wants to become an aCAdemic."

"It's not aCAdemic, but acaDEmic. The stress is on the third syllable 'de'. The 'a' in the first syllable is pronounced like the 'a' in cat and the 'a' in the second syllable sounds like the a' in 'China'. 'dem' rhymes with 'them'."

"I see. So, it's acaDEmic. Correct?"

"Yes. that's right."

"Anyway, as I was saying, Urvasi wants to become an academic."

"I wouldn't take anything she says seriously. She is an airhead."

"An airhead! What does it mean?"

"An airhead is 'a stupid person: someone who speaks or acts unintelligently'."

"You're right. Well, Urvasi may be an airhead, but she is a rich airhead. Do you know she has a house by the lake?"

" 'By' the lake, or 'near' the lake?

"What's the difference?"

"When you say you live 'by the lake', it means you're very close to the lake. It is possible to see the lake from your house."

"And when you say you live 'near the lake', it means you're a little distance away. Is that correct?"

"Right. You could be as far as five or ten miles away You see, 'near' is a relative concept. For example, I can say, 'Madras is near Hyderabad' although there are hundreds of miles separating the two cities. But I can't say, 'Madras is by Hyderabad'."

"In other words, something that is 'by' you is closer than something that is 'near' you."

"Oh!"

"Urvasi is celebrating her birthday at the Taj this weekend."

"I know."

"Are you planning to go?"

"No. I don't plan to go."

"Which is correct? 'planning to go' or plan to go'?"

"Both are acceptable. You can say, 'I am planning to see Lion King' or 'I plan to see Lion King'. You could also say, 'I am planning on seeing Lion King' and 'I plan on seeing Lion King'. But remember, when you use 'on' the verb that follows it takes the 'ing' form. I plan on going to Atlanta next week. I plan on buying a new pair of jeans."

"But you don't plan on attending Urvasi's party?"

"No."

"Do you want me to tell her anything?"

Yes. Tell her 'Urvasi, Urvasi, take it easy Urvasi'."

"Ha. Ha."

Published in The Hindu on July 25, 1995.

Word of the day

Contiguous:
very close or connected in space or time; connecting without a break; within a common boundary; having a common boundary or edge; abutting; touching

Synonyms: immediate, conterminous, adjacent, neighbouring

Usage: *These were contiguous events but I have no recollection of them.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/contiguouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kənˈtɪg.ju.əs/

Correction

In the article titled 'Theory and practice: the ethical core in Amartya Sen's Wetanschauung', dated February 20, the name of Shudraka's play should have been *Mricchakatika*, and not *Mudrarakshasa*, as mentioned, which was written by Vishakhadatta. The error is regretted

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

India beat Pakistan by six wickets in the ICC Champions Trophy on Sunday. Here is a quiz on one of the most heated rivalries in cricket

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
In which year did India and Pakistan face off in a world cup for the first time?

QUESTION 2
How many players have appeared for both countries? Who are they?

QUESTION 3
Who has scored the most ODI runs in the fixture?

QUESTION 4
Who has the highest score in a single ODI match between the two nations?

QUESTION 5
How many times has Pakistan won a match between the two in an ICC tournament?

Visual question:
Name this batsman who hit a six on the last ball of the match to win the 1986 Austral-Asia cup?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The relevance of Joanne Carole Schieble and Abdulfattah Jandali to Steve Job's life. **Ans: They were his biological parents and he was adopted by Paul Reinhold and Clara Jobs**
2. The 1971 book by spiritual teacher Ram Dass. **Ans: *Be Here Now***
3. Jobs took a job as a video game designer in early 1974 at this company. **Ans: Atari Corporation**
4. This person said, "He did not know technology. He'd never designed anything as a hardware engineer, and he didn't know software. He wanted to be important...". **Ans: His Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak**
5. Jobs dated this music icon of the 1960s. **Ans: Joan Baez**
6. The '1984' commercial was shown at this sporting event. Ans: Super Bowl
7. Name the company Jobs founded in 1985 and the studio from which he bought Pixar. **Ans: NeXT and Lucasfilm**
8. The significance of the words 'Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh wow'. **Ans: According to his sister Mona Simpson, these were the last words spoken by Jobs**
Visual: Name the designer who created the famous turtleneck top. **Ans: Issey Miyake**
Early Birds: Shivam Yadav| Dodo Jayaditya| Rajib Ganguly| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Barnali Biswas

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Advertisement

The Prayagraj Mahakumbh stands as a magnificent symbol of India's unity, harmony and deep-rooted scientific tradition. Celebrated as the world's largest spiritual gathering, it has brought together millions of devotees and visitors from across the globe, transcending boundaries of caste, creed, and nationality. More than 62 crore people have witnessed the 'divine and grand' experience of the Prayagraj Mahakumbh which has became an indelible symbol of India's cultural pride on the global stage. The arrangements are a prime example of how such events can be organised in a grand manner with the touch of the divine. This year's Mahakumbh is all set to surpass the previous one in both grandeur and divine essence.

> **Blessed to be at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. The Snan at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection, and like the crores of others who have taken part in it, I was also filled with a spirit of devotion. May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good health and harmony**
>
> **Narendra Modi**
> **Prime Minister**

> **Unity, faith and spirituality are the cultural strengths of Sanatan Dharma. Through Mahakumbh-2025, Prayagraj, the whole world is getting acquainted with the eternal spirit of India's diversity and divinity**
>
> **Yogi Adityanath**
> **Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh**

The seamless management of Mahakumbh 2025 is a testament to CM Yogi Adityanath's robust administrative system. Any emerging situation has been swiftly controlled, ensuring that even after challenges, crores of devotees continue to take a holy dip at the Sangam without any hindrance. Pilgrims from Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, and even the remotest villages of Kerala are arriving to immerse themselves in the sacred Triveni. Administration has ensured a completely organized and hassle-free environment.

Swami Adhokshjanand Ji Maharaj
Govardhan Peethadheeshwar

The arrangements for Mahakumbh are truly remarkable. The Yogi government and the fair administration work tirelessly, with officials even forgoing sleep to ensure everything runs smoothly. Their dedication has resulted in a historic gathering, drawing millions of devotees from across the globe. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts to make this event a grand success are commendable.

Swami Charanashrit Giri Maharaj,
Mahamandaleshwar Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara & Swar Yoga Peethadheeshwar

Mahakumbh is a living symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. Kumbh is a huge event organised under valuable guidance of country's PM Narendra Modi and the able leadership of 'Karmayogi' Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath. It is a celebration of the ritual of faith and spirituality.

Nirmala Sitharaman
Union Minister
Finance and Corporate Affairs

This morning has been the most beautiful morning in my life when I took a holy dip in the Sangam. I didn't want to leave that place. It was an amazing and beautiful experience. I thank the police and everyone who has made such good arrangements.

Juhi Chawla, Actress

We may be different in terms of language or culture, but our religion is one. We are Sanatanis, and Mahakumbh is the biggest moment for every Sanatani. Taking a dip at Mahakumbh was my biggest wish for the last many decades, which has been fulfilled. It is the greatness of our heritage and Sanatan Dharma that such a large and peaceful event takes place with such grandeur and divinity on the basis of public faith.

Pawan Kalyan, Deputy CM, Andhra Pradesh & Actor, South Indian Film Industry

ANCIENT WISDOM MEETS MODERN TECH

- A blend of ancient wisdom and modern technology is being fostered close to the sprawling tent city of Mahakumbh
- 'Batuks' (students) here are mastering challenging Sanskrit, Vedic mantras, knowledge of Puranas, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita while also acquiring expertise in computers and smart software.
- Using these tools, they are learning how to preserve and share Vedic scriptures and knowledge on a global scale. Embodying the vision 'Digital India', these

Vedic scholars are learning traditional Vedic education along side English, mathematics and computer sciences.

TECH-INTEGRATED VEDIC EDUCATION

- Students are taught AI concepts, Hindi and English typing, Microsoft Office tools, PowerPoint presentations, Excel, photoshop, and other practical applications. This knowledge helps them preserve
- Ancient manuscripts and use AI to reconstruct lost materials, ensuring survival of invaluable texts.
- Scanning handwritten and printed Vedic texts into digital formats makes them accessible for research and global dissemination. Advanced technologies like text analytics, machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) aid in interpreting the Vedas, translating their wisdom into multiple languages and making them accessible to diverse cultures.

BIRD FESTIVAL IMPRESSES FOREIGNERS

Several international tourists who participated in the Bird Festival, a special event organised as part of Mahakumbh have showed keen interest in learning about conservation efforts for birds and wildlife, appreciating the initiative as an extension of the festival's spiritual and ecological significance. According to these visitors, Kumbh is not just congregation for human spirituality but also a divine event that fosters the well-

being of all living beings, including birds and animals. Expressing their gratitude, foreign visitors described the experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness a spiritual awakening and cultural grandeur on an unparalleled scale.

Emma from UK, visiting India for the first time, was fascinated not only by the divinity of Kumbh but also by the Bird Festival. She praised efforts in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection. Another foreign tourist recalled his interaction with Indian conservation experts at the Bird Festival as a truly memorable experience, lauding Prayagraj as a city rich in both spirituality and ecological consciousness.

KUMBH MODEL FOR 2027 NASHIK FAIR

A 20-member team of senior officials from Nashik visited Prayagraj to study the management strategies implemented by the Yogi govt at the Mahakumbh and apply insights into the planning of NashikTrimbakeshwar Kumbh in 2027. The team visited various sites in Prayagraj, studying key aspects of the Mahakumbh, including crowd control, emergency response, traffic and transport management, ghats and river water management, health and medical facilities, tent city and housing, sanitation and waste management, drinking water and toilet services, and coordination with 'akharas' and 'mahants', along with security and protocol arrangements.

26 MAHA SHIVARATRI
FEBRUARY 2025

SHELTERS FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS

- **The Indian railways has made comprehensive arrangements for its passengers at its railway stations of NCR,NR and NER by creating holding areas equipped with basic facilities .**
- **Prayagraj Junction - 115572 sq ft**
- **Prayag Junction - 107639 sq ft**
- **Naini - 114495 sq ft**
- **Cheoki - 80729 sq ft**
- **Rambagh - 43055 sq ft**
- **Phaphamau - 94453 sq ft**
- **Jhunsi - 193750 sq ft**
- **Overall 749693 sq ft area has been provisioned for the same**

MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Establishment of 23 shelters equipped with all basic facilities. Capacity of 1.40 lakh at all railway stations**
- **Movement of trains through 9 railway stations of NCR, NR and NER**
- **8500 buses operational**
- **750 shuttle buses operational**
- **Lost and found centres at all railway stations**
- **Establishment of mini hospitals at all railway stations, more than 1.25 lakh people received treatment**
- **Deployment of Quick Response Team with response time of 2 minutes**
- **Deployment of Rapid Action Team and Fire Fighting team**
- **More than 13700 trains operational including 5419 special trains**

MAHAKUMBH HELPLINE

1920	Mahakumbh Mela Helpline
112	Emergency Service
1010	Food and Supplies Helpline
102, 108	Ambulance Service
18004199139	Railway Helpline

'Lokayukta report in MUDA case manipulated to suit Siddaramaiah'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy alleged that a report by the Lokayukta police, which probed the MUDA 'scam', had been manipulated to suit Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is the main accused in the case.

Fielding queries from reporters at a press conference in Mysuru on Monday, Mr. Kumaraswamy pointed out that the Lokayukta falls under the control of the government and its report had been orchestrated to suit Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Regretting that "looters" go unpunished, Mr. Kumaraswamy said documents will reveal the truth.

Responding to questions on a probe against his land in Bidadi, Mr. Kumaraswamy took exception to the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising IAS officers by the State government for the purpose, while clarifying that he had purchased the land 40 years ago when he was a film distributor in Mysuru.

Making it clear that he was not afraid of the survey, Mr. Kumaraswamy even referred to a land issue pertaining to Sakamma in Hinkal and sought to know Mr. Siddaramaiah's connection in the matter.

While listing out programmes announced by the Union government in the Budget, Mr. Kumaraswamy denied Mr. Siddaramaiah's charges about discrimination against Karnataka.

The Union government has sanctioned funds for national highway projects, Railways, agriculture, cooperative and all departments for different States. "There is no discrimination between States," he said while dubbing the charges as "false propaganda".

Mr. Kumaraswamy also criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah for passing the blame for the recent hike in metro fares onto the Centre. Claiming that the State government had recommended to the Centre to increase the fares, the Union Minister asked why were the metro fares not raised in other States.

He said the State government, which had hiked bus fares, was now planning to increase the prices of milk and also water tariff. But no development was taking place in the State, he claimed.

Alleging that the government was hiking transport fares and prices of essentials to support its guarantee programmes, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he can give ₹10,000 instead of ₹2,000 per month to the women heads of families below poverty line if the public was burdened. Referring to Mr. Siddaramaiah's recent announcement on issue of B-khatas for properties in unauthorised layouts, Mr. Kumaraswamy asked what was the urgency when a court case was pending.

He claimed that the government was hard-pressed for revenue as the treasury was empty.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also called for punishment to the persons, who had pelted stones at the Udayagiri police station in Mysuru.

NWKRTC conductor did not molest minor girl on bus: Reddy

Transport Minister says vested interests have filed POCSO case against the member of the bus crew only to harass him

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday dismissed allegations that a NWKRTC conductor, who was allegedly assaulted in Chikka Balekundri village, had molested a minor girl on the bus. The conductor has been booked under the POCSO Act.

"Mahadev Hukkeri has been serving on the same route for over five years. He was beaten up by a group in the village over a language row. The charge that he molested a minor girl on the bus is false. There were 90 passengers on the bus. How is such an offence possible in such a situation? Vested interests have filed the case against him only to harass him. It is unfortunate that the police have registered the complaint. They should have used their common sense before registering the First Information Report," Mr. Reddy said.

Kannada Chaluvali leader Gurudev Narayan Kumar with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He was speaking to reporters after meeting the injured conductor in the hospital.

He said that officers had told him that the conductor had got into an altercation with a boy and girl, both minors, who refused to speak Kannada. The conductor found out that the boy was travelling without a ticket. When the conductor questioned them, they asked him to speak in Marathi. He asked them to speak in Kannada. An argument ensued. The boy called his friends and family members. They boarded at the next stop and allegedly assaulted the conductor, the Minister said.

Four of the five persons, who have been arrested, have been remanded in judicial custody. One is a minor.

Minister of Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar, in whose constituency the village lies, condemned the attack on the conductor.

"It is true that Belagavi Rural constituency is a Marathi speaking area. But it is also true that they have voted for me, a Kannadiga. It proves that the common people have no language based ill-will. Only a few miscreants are creating problems based on language. Within five minutes of the incident, I spoke to the Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, and asked them to take action against the attackers. I was keeping track of the incident. But the police registered a POCSO case against the conductor at midnight, without my knowledge. They should have thought about it properly." she told reporters at her home.

Mr. Reddy had gone to meet Ms. Hebbalkar, who is recuperating after a road accident.

Kannada Chaluvali leader Gurudev Narayan Kumar has accused Ms. Hebbalkar of exerting undue influence on the Belagavi police to lodge an FIR against the conductor. He led a delegation to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Monday, and complained that the Minister had forced the police to file a counter-complaint to protect her Marathi vote bank.

Mr. Kumar also alleged that Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan had given an assurance to Marathi groups to issue copies of government documents in Marathi, and sought action against him.

Meanwhile, Belagavi district in-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi has appealed to Kannada groups to drop their Belagavi Chalo planned for Tuesday against the attack on the bus conductor.

Congress to build party offices in 100 Assembly segments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has decided to construct 100 party offices in different Assembly constituencies in the State this year to mark the centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the AICC session in Belagavi.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told reporters that party leaders have been asked to identify government or private land for the party offices. In case no government land was available, leaders have been told to purchase land.

Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar and the party's State-level office-bearers held a meeting with defeated Assembly and Lok Sabha elections candidates on Monday, and told them to organise the workers to face the coming elections to rural and urban local bodies. The party has decided to focus on strengthening the organisation this year, he said.

₹500-crore allocation sought to spread Basavanna's philosophy

A Veerashaiva-Lingayat delegation with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of Ministers, MLAs, and seers belonging to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community on Monday met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and demanded allocation of ₹500 crore in the State Budget for 2025-26 for spreading the philosophy of 12th century social reformer Basavanna, the cultural icon of Karnataka.

The delegation demanded an allotment of ₹100 crore each in the next five years for spreading the values and messages of Vachanas written by Basavanna. Vachanas of the social reformer are regarded among Karnataka's greatest contributions to Indian thought and literature. The vachanas condemned and fought against social evils such as untouchability, child marriage, and discrimination in society.

The delegation, comprising Minister for Industries M.B. Patil, Chief Minister's economic adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi and Congress MLAs, demanded installation of a statue of Basavanna on the road linking to the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, establishment of Vachana University near the Anubhava Mantapa at Koodala Sangama in Bagalkot district, Sharana Kendra on 25 acres in Bengaluru city, and Basava Kendras in all districts.

High Court quashes criminal case registered against Arnab Goswami for 'promoting enmity'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that a criminal case against Arnab Goswami, the editor-in-chief of Republic Media Network, for allegedly 'creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes by telecasting a report containing rumour,' was a "classic illustration for dragging him only to settle other scores".

"What was aired in the case at hand is an alleged false report that the convoy of Chief Minister [Siddaramaiah] had to pass and an ambulance had to wait. Even if it is construed to be true, it is un-understandable as to how the ingredients of Section 505(2) of the Indian Penal Code is met even to its remotest sense," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing the First Information Report (FIR) registered against Mr. Goswami of Republic Media Network, which runs Republic Kannada television channel, on March 27, 2024.

The FIR was registered based on a complaint by Ravindra M.V. of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's (KPCC) legal cell, Bengaluru. It was stated in the complaint that the channel had aired a 'false' video clip, shot by a person, on an alleged traffic jam created on M.G. Road in Bengaluru impacting the movement of an ambulance.

"Recklessness pervades throughout the registration of the complaint," the court said, while pointing out that the petitioner, being the editor in-chief/executive director of Republic Media Network, had neither made a statement nor aired anything to promote hatred between the classes.

"...merely because the petitioner is a renowned name in the fourth estate, he is dragged into the web of crime, only to project registration of a crime against the petitioner, which on the face of it, is reckless," the court observed.

Permitting even investigation even in this case would become an abuse of the process of law and result in miscarriage of justice, the court said.

Concurrent charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Govinda Reddy, Joint Secretary in the Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department, has been given the concurrent charge of Commissioner, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), in Bengaluru.

The appointment takes effect immediately. As part of this move, Nitesh Patil has been relieved of his concurrent charge.

The State government has issued a notification to this effect.

Budget: Vijayendra calls for fiscal prudence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an open letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who will be presenting the State Budget on March 7, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra has called for fiscal prudence.

In his four-page letter, Mr. Vijayendra has flagged issues of the benefits of guarantee schemes not reaching beneficiaries and diversion of funds from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes sub plan for the schemes. He demanded that there be no diversion from the SC-ST sub plan for guarantee schemes this year.

He also said that over the past two years, the Chief Minister had increased the State's liabilities by nearly ₹2 lakh crore and the people were anxious about the growing debt. He said borrowed money has to be spent on capital expenditure and not revenue expenditure.

He alleged that the Chief Minister had brought a State known for its fiscal prudence to a situation where the government hasn't been able to pay contractors' bills, power bills and salaries for employees.

Mr. Vijayendra also condemned the rise in bus and metro fares and the hike in prices of milk, fuel, and other essential commodities and demanded that the government should not hike prices of any commodities further, even as proposals for revision of milk prices and the power tariff are pending before the government.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We will miss you, Daddy!

R.SRINIVASA SARMA
S/o.P.Ramanathan Iyer
Retd.Dy.Manager (F), SRO
Indian Oil Corporation
15.7.1935 — 22.2.2025
Attained the divine lotus feet on 22.02.2025 in New Jersey, USA.
98410 90696

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BGRR/PvtSale/2024-25 — NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD — 24/02/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-03-2025 as shown below:

Br. Bidadi: Site No. 342/370, Nelligudda Tank Road, Bidadi, Ramanagara, Karnataka- 562 109 Ph No. 080-27282383 :-
16706400087155,16706400095604,16706400078683,16706400078691,16706400064147,16706400087452,16706400095877,16706400095505,16706400087668, 16705500014812,16706400093013,16706400085258,16706400087924,16706400085472,16706400093476,16706400093526,16706400088658,16706400088419, 16706400091397,16706400059139,16706400100230,16706400098624,16706400098251,16706400094094,16706400094102,16706400097345,16706400086850, 16706400094110,16706400089078,16706400094367,16706400099713,16706400096586,16706400090639,16706400098004,16706400086389.

Br. Bangalore/Basavanagudi: 20/1, Ground Floor, Shri Mallikarjuna Nilaya, Prof.B S Madhava Rao Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560 004, Ph No.08026571530 :- 13186400024537,13186400028298,13186100192956,13186100192048,13186100194556,13186100175407,13186400030070, 13186100192238,13186400023893,13186400029494,13186100191776,13186100192386,13186400024610,13186400029502,13186100191826,13186100193632, 13186400024644,13186400029536,13186100191909,13186100194945,13186400024594,13186400029544,13186100191982.

Br. Bangalore/Jaya Nagar: K M Plaza, Kanakapura Main Road, 30th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560 082,Ph No. 080-26655558 :-
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Br. Bangalore/Koramangala: No. 7, Maruthi Arcade, 20th Main Road, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560 095, Ph No. 080-25717733:-
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Br.Bangalore/Marathahalli: No.43, Varthur Main Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore- 560 037, Ph No. 080-25400111:-
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Br. Bannergatta: Limra Towers, Kemmanaikanahalli, Bannergatta, Bangalore Urban-560 083. Ph No. 080 27828224 :-
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Br. Bangalore/H S R Layout : No.19, 15th Cross, 15th Main, Sector IV, H S R Layout, Bangalore- 560 102, Ph no. 080 25724492 :-
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Br. Bangalore/J P Nagar : No.13, 15th Cross, 100ft Ring Road, 6th Phase, J P Nagar, Bangalore- 560 078,Ph No. 080 26549292 :-
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Br. Bangalore/Banashankari: Sudhama, No.299, 100ft. Ring Road, 4rh Phase, 7th Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085,Ph. 080-26691593:-
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Br. Wipro Park, Koramangala: Annapoorna Complex, Opp. Wipro Park, No 6,7th Main, 80 Feet Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala PO, Bangalore-560 034, Ph. 080-25504450:- 21996400055475,21996400055459,21996400054692,21996400057018,21996400051110,21996400054916,21996400054924,21996400055343, 21996400052696,21996400057745,21996400051243,21996400051250,21996400056440,21996400035006,21996400054320,21996400051698,21996400051946, 21996400056481,21996400058099,21996400052837,21996400052647,21996400052589,21996400053538,21996400056804,21996400056838,21996400052266.

Br. Raja Rajeswari Nagar: Nitai Gaur Complex,No: 692, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, BEML 5th stage, Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 098 :- 23456400004039,23456500001976,23456500002008.

Br. Billapura: Sy. No.20, Thyvakanahally, Sarjapur - Attibele Road, Bangalore- 562125:-
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Bangalore 24-02-2025 — Vice President & Zonal Head

‘We have lived with macaques for long enough and have co-evolved with them’

According to professor Anindya Sinha, as the city transitioned from the Garden City of yore to the Silicon Valley of India, many other non-human inhabitants of the city began to leave

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

We fight being racists, we fight being sexist. But I don’t think we have any qualms about announcing loudly that only we will stay in the city, not the macaques or dogs, says Anindya Sinha. FILE PHOTO

When primatologist Anindya Sinha first came to Bengaluru in the early 1990s, he couldn’t help but notice the number of bonnet macaques in the city. “They were not just in Cubbon Park or Lal Bagh, but also on the city walls and the terraces of houses,” he says at a recent talk at Science Gallery, Bengaluru. “But, of course, we knew that times were changing and their existence was doomed,” he says.

According to Sinha, a professor at the National Institute of Advanced Sciences (NIAS) in Bengaluru, as the city transitioned from the Garden City of yore to the Silicon Valley of India that it is today and lost its gardens as well as the relatively relaxed pace of life that had once defined it, many other non-human inhabitants of the city began to leave. One such “legitimate citizen of the city” was the bonnet macaque, a species of monkey native to peninsular India.

“What subsequently developed was not only negativity about the macaque, but also these other ideas and conceptions that came in, about aesthetics, for example,” he says in this talk titled *Changing Ecologies, Transforming Lives: Complex Coexistence of Human and Non-Human Primates in Our Cities*. “If Bengaluru was to be a beautiful city, it shouldn’t have monkeys just as it shouldn’t have dogs. I find that personally very difficult to accept because what it is clearly saying is that we are speciesists,” says Sinha, whose lecture offered insights into the profound relationship Indians have shared with nonhuman species, including macaques, why this co-existence is under threat and how these macaques have learnt how to survive in human-altered landscapes, often resorting to pilfering, begging or forging new friendships to adapt to an urbanised world.

“We fight being racists, we fight being sexist. But I don’t think we have any qualms about announcing loudly that only we will stay in the city, not the macaques or dogs.”

The macaques who love humans

Macaques are a genus of old-world primates consisting of around 24 species spread across the world, 12 of which are found in India, including the Assam macaque, the Rhesus macaque, the southern pig-tailed macaque, the white-cheeked macaque and the lion-tailed macaque. “They have the largest range of non-human primates, to the extent that there is one species that lives in Northern Africa, but all the other species extend from Afghanistan in the west to Japan in the east,” says Sinha. In his opinion, what is most remarkable about them is that they are flexible in their social and individual ecologies and behaviour. “As a result, they have been extremely successful evolutionarily.”

Of these, there are two species – the North Indian Rhesus macaque and the South Indian bonnet macaque – that are especially interesting because they have a “remarkable ability to adapt to almost any kind of ecology, both natural and human-made.” Additionally, both these species as well as the Nicobar long-tailed macaque, tend to move towards human habitation, says Sinha. “In some sense, crudely speaking, if you give these macaques a choice between living in a forest and living with people, they prefer to live with people,” he says.

According to him, the ability of macaques to adapt to urban dwellings is not new – they have been doing so for centuries. Sinha brings up a poem featuring a monkey on a jackfruit tree who “mistakes for fruit... the eye... on the thronged drumheads,” and explains, “This was originally a poem in Tamil by a poet called Mutamociyar,” he says, pointing out that the poet wrote this poem about 2000 years ago. This indicates that “we have lived with macaques for very long periods of time and have co-evolved with them.”

And yet, the relationship between human beings and macaques is also often fraught with tension, with many early biologists even referring to these macaque species as “weed macaques” since they “are very prolific, they multiply in large numbers and are even called pests, just as weeds are.” Sinha, however, does not see the macaques this way. “In our research group, we decided very consciously to do away with that term because of the kind of value system this term had,” he says. “We call them anthropophilic macaques since they love people, or the prolific macaques since they multiply at very high rates,” he says.

Macaques are a genus of old-world primates consisting of around 24 species spread across the world. K. MURALI KUMAR

Anindya Sinha

Adaptation in action

One offshoot of this close relationship with human beings is that these interactions irretrievably change the macaques.

“Once a macaque has tasted human food, her life has changed forever,” says Sinha, expanding on some of the behaviours that have resulted from this.

In Bandipur National Park, for instance, where tourists have been interacting with these animals by throwing food to them, juvenile bonnet macaques have developed new modalities of communicating with people who carry foods in their hand, he says, showing a photograph of a young monkey with its arm stretched out, almost in a begging gesture. “It consists of four behaviours,” he explains.” These juvenile monkeys end up tracking people who have food in their hands and orient themselves so that they are making eye contact with these people.”

“While they are doing this, they give a coo-coo call, and finally, when eye contact is made with a human, the macaque puts out its hand,” he says. “This is remarkable because they don’t do it with other macaques; they do it only with people. The interesting reason for that is there is no food-sharing amongst these macaques, but people are willing to share food with them. “It is a very human appeal,” says Sinha, adding that this entire set of behaviours is completely newand “never before seen in any wild monkeys.”

Human presence in Bandipur is also gravely impacting the integrity of macaque social groups. Like most primates as well as mammals like elephants, lions and hyenas, macaques are female-bonded, forming very close relationships with others in their group, which typically consists of a few adult males, many females and all their offspring. “When people provide food to these females, that bond is tested because the competition for the food becomes so high,” says Sinha, whose team is now seeing group fission with females often leaving these large multi-male, multi-female groups to bring down social tensions.

“You end up with small groups of females with a single male. In the last three decades, many of the groups in Bandipur and Mudumalai, especially those around the highway, have developed a new form of social organisation – a single adult male and these small groups of females – and they don’t do very well,” he says.

Doomed city dwellers

In his talk, Sinha also discusses how changing ecological circumstances are causing many of these animals to move from forests to highways to villages and cities. “Their forests are being removed, they have no way to go back, and so they adapt to different kinds of human habitations,” says Sinha. Macaques, he adds, have a high degree of what he calls phenotypic flexibility, the “ability to quickly adapt to changing conditions, so you are not left in a difficult situation,” he says.

This phenotypic flexibility makes it easier for them, as compared to many other animals, to adapt to urban ecosystems. For instance, “they may not have their trees, canopies and branches, but they use this mass of electric cables and wires to move across the city,” he says, sharing a video of a macaque stealing a woman’s glasses and refusing to return it unless given food bought from a nearby vendor. “Clearly, this is a barter system, which they have learnt to negotiate,” he says. “And don’t forget that shopkeepers also benefit.”

While macaques may have learnt to adapt to urban spaces, the people who inhabit these same spaces aren’t always happy to have them there. “Across virtually every city, we have gotten into negative relationships with macaques,” he says. The problem, in his opinion, is very complex, affecting both humans and animals. “Where you stand on it will depend on where your empathies lie and how you think the problem can be solved,” he says.

However, it is important to remember that macaques, world-over, are struggling to survive, with research showing that many of them are disappearing from across their traditional distribution ranges, “primarily due to anthropogenic factors and their own maladaptive responses to such influences. Their lives are not becoming easier, and in fact, they are doomed,” says Sinha, who believes that more detailed ecological behavioural studies of wild, urban and semi-urban macaques are essential. “We are in urgent need of management strategies for the species in protected areas with tourist-primate interactions and in urban areas with very severe human-primate conflict,” he says. “Otherwise, there is very little or no hope for the survival of macaques.”

Tech firm staff for urban forest creation in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Employees of an automotive retail tech company, Tekion, gathered off Hebbal Lake in Bengaluru over the weekend to participate in a community initiative - urban forest creation. They planted 1,000+ saplings of various native species of plants, which will be nurtured and maintained for the next three years until they reach the canopy stage.

The company will be undertaking a series of urban forest creation programmes during the monsoon season in Bengaluru, according to a release.

Tekion Founder & CEO Jay Vijayan launched the urban forest creation initiative by planting bamboo saplings.

Over 12 species of plants, including Arjuna, Myrobalan, Sea Hibiscus, Magnolia and Mahogany, were planted on a vacant land earmarked for trees near the lake.

The company partnered with the NGO Blue Dot Foundation for sapling-planting initiatives across different places in Bengaluru.

A community-driven archive to preserve Malleswaram neighbourhood legacy

Malleswaram Musings is a small gathering at TheSeniorCentral in Malleswaram, where senior citizens from the area came together to share and discuss their memories of the area

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Malleswaram for most people in Bengaluru is all about “dosae” at Central Tiffin Room or idly at Veena Stores and shopping at Mantri Square. But for many generations of families that have lived in Malleswaram, it is about the area’s history, architecture, temples, cultural events, greenery, local vendors, family doctors, schools and more.

To archive the rich history of the area, Suchitra Deep an architect and founder of Malleswaram Social is working on a project which is closely interacting with individuals from the locality.

This project, implemented by the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) under Project 560, is an artistic research initiative that explores the heritage of Malleswaram.

It aims to create a digital archive and interactive platform through the website malleswaram.org, which documents Malleswaram’s architectural, ecological, and cultural legacy through historical research and community engagement.

Malleshwaram Market. SUDHAKARA JAIN

It aims to collect and preserve personal narratives from residents, shopkeepers, and cultural practitioners alongside archival research from official records. Recently Suchitra and her team organised Malleswaram Musings, a small gathering at TheSeniorCentral in Malleswaram, where senior citizens from the area came together to share and discuss their memories of the area.

During the discussion, Aandal Sharma an 84-year-old woman said her family has been living in Malleswaram for more than 100 years. Another resident, Krishnaveni, said her grandmother got to see Mahatma Gandhi, when he visited Malleswaram and that her grandmother contributed four anna to a fund Gandhi was collecting back then.

Bonda shop

Vishalakshi shared her memory of a popular “bonda” shop that has been in the area since she was born and how as a child she took the “jatka gaadi” from Malleswaram Circle to go get “ragi biscuits” from Sheshadripuram along with her father.

The project aims to highlight well-documented and lesser-known aspects of Malleswaram’s history, from vanished landmarks like Villa Pottipatti to the resilience of Sankey Tank, said Suchitra.

“Community-driven artistic engagements such as heritage walks, photo essays, tree walks, and mapping exercises will encourage local participation. The findings will be presented through an interactive website featuring an embedded eBook with essays, archival photographs, maps, and multimedia content, ensuring continued public engagement beyond the project period”, said Suchitra during the discussion.

The collection of narratives from residents and more is expected to go on till November this year.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 25, 1975

Opposition Leader Lists Charges Against Urs

Bangalore, Feb. 24: The Opposition leader in the Assembly, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda (Cong-O) today listed in pursuance of his offer’ a series of 10 specific charges against the Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs. The Opposition leader, who came out with the charges at the end of his speech initiating the debate on the budget, reiterated his demand for a judicial probe into them under the Commission of enquiry Act. He declared that he stood by his offer to quit if he was proved wrong. The Opposition leader made it clear that the list of charges levelled by him was not a no confidence motion against the Government, under the rules. All the charges were confined only to the Chief Minister.

Informal Rationing to be Extended in Stages, says Urs

Bangalore, Feb. 24: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs told the Assembly today that the intention of the Government was to cover the weaker sections and labour classes by the extension of informal rationing in cities and towns.

Replying to a question from Mr. J.L. Kabadi (Cong-O), the Chief Minister said the extension of informal rationing would be done in stages as the Government should be in a position to supply grain once informal rationing was introduced. They wanted to build a good buffer stock. Vaz pointed out that the policy of the Government was to introduce informal rationing if necessary, in places with a population of more than one lakh.

80, and still going strong

Eight decades on, BP Wadia's objective of the Indian Institute of World Culture as a harbinger of a cosmopolitan spirit, still remains relevant

Ranjani Govind

Strolling down BP Wadia Road from MN Krishna Rao Park, it would be hard to miss the Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) in Basavanagudi. In the 80 years since its inception, the Institute has always drawn visitors, courtesy its huge library, performance hall and serene surroundings.

"An interesting addition has been the art gallery within the premises. Artists now have a chance to display their work within a space that boasts an old world charm, complete with red oxide flooring and timber rafters on the high ceiling. IIWC is housed in an acre of land," says Arakali Venkatesh, Secretary, IIWC.

According to Arakali, BP Wadia set up IIWC in Bengaluru to cater to students of Theosophy, who volunteered their time and energy for the cause of universal brotherhood through art and culture – a duty they considered paramount. Wadia's involvement was awe-inspiring. "Back then, Bangaloreans would quip that if North Bengaluru had the Tata Institute (IISc), the South had the Wadia Institute," Arakali says, adding IIWC has long run on a strong volunteer base.

Visitors to IIWC find it quite relaxing to visit this INTACH-listed heritage building, housed in a tranquil location, just a stone's throw from Lalbagh and Krishna Rao Park. The proximity to old Bengaluru shopping localities such as Gandhi Bazaar and Chamarajapete as well as an abundance of restaurants, make it a favoured destination, to say nothing of IIWC's convenient parking space within the premises.

Bahmanji Pestonji Wadia, born in 1881 in erstwhile Bombay, was the eldest son of Pestonji Cursetji Wadia and Mithabai. Belonging to a family of shipbuilders from a village in Surat, young Wadia joined the family textile business after matriculation, going on to take over following his father's demise.

In 1904, Wadia sold the flourishing textile venture and became involved with the philosophy of the Theosophical Society founded by Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott. Over the years, he resolved to devote his life to sharing Theosophy and even moved to Madras in 1908 where he managed the Theosophical Publishing House working under Annie Besant. In the following decade he turned a prolific author with over 30 titles to his credit.

Founder's dream

IIWC was established in Bengaluru on August 11, 1945, by Wadia and his Columbian wife Sophia Wadia, "to make available those nuggets of knowledge that make people noble, and self-sacrificing in spirit."

What made it easier for Wadia's vision of IIWC take off in the city, was his earlier brush with Home Rule Movement where his interactions with literary and political bigwigs helped him garner people and funds. "Public lectures from political leaders, Nobel laureates, scholars, scientists and public representatives, as well as music and dance performances from leading artistes were arranged every week.

Greater common good The library at Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Books from various fields were housed over the years in the library to make it a comprehensive cosmopolitan movement," says Arakali.

Nonagenarian, and former Chief Justice MN Venkatachaliah, Chairman Advisory Committee IIWC, says it was clear from its inception that the institute was an academy not only for scholars, but also a platform to promote art and culture, with litterateurs, educationists and statesmen sharing their views in the creation of value systems.

"Opportunities were created for global events, academic discussions, cultural evenings, and for accessing the best books – as part of the "hallmarks of Humanism" that Wadia insisted on. The institute got its lecture and performance hall, and public library through Wadia's contributions and donations from philanthropists and the public. "The Wadia couple respected local culture, integrating themselves with their thought processes and in their style of dressing too," says Venkatachalaiah.

A note in the coffee table book brought out by IIWC during its Platinum Jubilee in 2020 states that the institute made rapid strides much before Independence due to Wadia's foresight, for nearly 14 years before his death in 1958, and his ability to connect with leaders from various fields across the world and in India.

Book by book

The library was started in 1945, and included 2,000 of Wadia's own books. A generous donation of 3,000 books by the then Vice-President of IIWC, Sister Sophia TenBroeck in 1957, was a major breakthrough. A huge collection of rare and valuable classics with a permanent endowment, was donated in 1963 by a distinguished physician from France, Dr KT Behenan, who was a World War II veteran and had made Bengaluru his home.

This gesture strengthened the endeavour, and with people's generosity over the years, the library now boasts over one lakh titles across genres such as fiction, biographies, travelogues, religion, philosophy, sports and science, making it a large public-use library. The magazine section boasts some of the rarest collections of *Chandamama* from the 1940s to the oldest *Tintin* series as well as *Tinkle, Champaka, Indrajal* and *Bombemane*. Educational books are sold for a minimum price during book fairs every year, and nearly 120 titles have been published by the IIWC itself.

Looking ahead

Vidushi TS Sathyavathi, president of IIWC, who is also a vocalist and Sanskrit scholar, says lecture series and performing arts flow simultaneously like a serene river at IIWC, with nearly 300 programs rolling out each year. Partnering with NFDC, Suchitra Film Society and the Bangalore Film Society, they screen films from across the world.

IIWC also collaborates with organisations such as IGNCA, BIC, Mythic Society, Lalithakala Academy and the ICCR, to host exhibitions on photography, painting and sculpture. "Going forward, we plan to curate more art forms from Indian and global streams, making them relevant to the contemporary cultural milieu. Any institution disseminating culture should not be in an existential angst; we plan to be pertinent to the times in culture, arts, music and literature," says Vidushi.

To keep Wadia's 80-year-old dream alive, the institute has plans for a renovated campus with two big auditoriums and a multi-utilitarian space, while retaining its library to preserve the reading habit. "Upgradation will equip us for the next 80 years, helping future generations enjoy and safeguard values nurtured so far," adds Venkatesh.

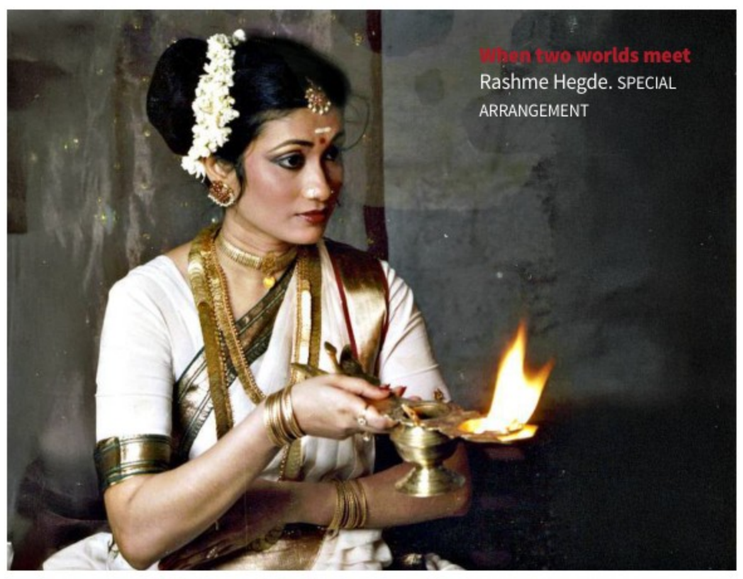
Points for posterity

Entries from Sister Sophia TenBroeck's diary are a record of several talks and events. She notes how IIWC would see uncontrolled crowds surging in even during pre-Independent days, especially during the participation of distinguished speakers, despite the provision of loudspeakers in the nearby gardens.

Halls, corridors and free spaces outside have been packed during talks by Governor General C Rajagopalachari, Presidents S Radhakrishnan and VV Giri, litterateurs DV Gundappa and Masti Venkatesha Iyengar and others. IIWC has also hosted the likes of sitarist Ravi Shankar, Mysore Royal, Jayachamajaja Wadiyar, American activist Martin Luther King Jr, Tibetan spiritual leader Panchen Lama and 19 Nobel laureates, including Julian Huxley and CV Raman.

It is said Wadia had insisted, "Our idea is to have open-to-public programmes for inclusive participation; no restriction in admission rules shall prevail," when a re-consideration on entry rules was suggested.

Namaste meets Privyet



When two worlds meet Rashme Hegde. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

Shankaraa Foundation, on Kanakapura Road, is organising Spasibo Shankaraa - A Tribute, which is a cultural collaboration between maestros from India and Russia. This is an artistic confluence to express reverence to Shiva through music and dance, says Rashme Hegde Gopi, who founded the Shankaraa Foundation in 2002 as a tribute to all forms of creative expression.

"It extends an open-hearted welcome to artists and artisans from different streams of life," says Rashme. "The space also facilitates cross-cultural and interdisciplinary interactions. "

Spasibo, Rashme says means thank you in Russian.

"We decided to organise the event on February 26, to celebrate Mahashivratri at Shankaraa." Rashme says her association with the White Lotus Group, Russia goes back to 1990. "We have been having artistic dialogues ever since. Now, seven artists are returning to Shankaraa for Spasibo Shankaraa."

A Bharatanayam and Mohiniyattam dancer, Karnataka State Rajyotsava awardee and winner of the Karnataka Kalashree Award from Sangeet Nritya Academy, Rashme is also the founder of Rudraksha.

It is also an artistic space that promotes tribal and folk dance forms. "Rudraksha is my very first venture, I started it in 1992."

The evening will feature two segments. The first, curated by Rashme, will feature three performances – *Mallari*, a dance by the students of Sai Arts International School directed by Suparna Venkatesh, *Dance of the Elements* featuring Indian and Russian dancers and *Rhythms of Shiva* a performance by Russian *kathakaars* – Tatiana Nazarova and Eleonora Petrova.

The second, titled *Free Spirit*, will be a reflection and musical dialogue between Russian and Indian maestros, says Rashme.

"It will feature artistes such as Ekaterina Melnikova on the keyboard), Dmitry Rasul Kareyev on the clarinet and sitarist Svetlana Janardan, while their Indian counterparts will be Hindustani vocalist Siddharth Belmannu, percussionist BS Arun Kumar and Shadaj Godkhindi on the bansuri.

About the Russian artistes, Rashme says: "I have known them for 35 years. They would attend my workshops while I was in Moscow and visit me when they were here. Now, 12 artistes from the White Lotus Group will perform at Shankaraa. The event is also a celebration of these artistes, who have dedicated their lives to learning Indian classical dance and music."

Spasibo Shankaraa is on February 26, 7.30pm. The event is open to all. For free/entry pass call 90711 00188 Or 91086 76611.

Stories that matter

Priyamedha Dutta

In the run-up to International Women's Day, Theatre for Change will present a special edition of its most acclaimed production *When the Rainbow is Enough*, portraying five powerful counter-narratives through the raw and personal stories of its actors.

From the silent struggles of post-partum depression to the resilience of a quadriplegic navigating life's challenges, each story sheds light on marginalised perspectives that needs to occupy space in today's conversations.

The play is an Indian adaption of the choreopoem *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf* written in 1976 by Afro-American feminist playwright and poet Ntozake Shange. The play gave voice to the struggles of women addressing issues such as racism, sexism, heartbreak and self-discovery.

"We wanted to bring forward the counter-narratives, because we have always been fed the dominant narrative, which becomes the story," says theatre practitioner and founder of Theatre for Change, Sujatha Balakrishnan. "Counter-narratives are stories on culturally stigmatised topics that can range from mental health to surviving rape and the challenges faced by transgenders."

This is us The cast of *When the Rainbow is Enough.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The highlight of the play is that it is based on a set of personalised monologues written by the actors themselves. "It is not a scripted play, because nobody can author a story better than the person who has experienced it. The medium of theatre not only entertains, it also engages and inspires conversations," says Sujatha.

The play will also be accompanied by an interactive session that will bring the actors and the audience together to share their experiences. "We believe that when you see the play, there should be a conversation after that. Counter narratives must be heard and countered, otherwise they become another biased story."

Actor, voiceover artiste and writer, Supriya Jambunathan speaking about her role in the play, says, "The piece that I will be performing is about how women are so busy juggling different roles – mother, daughter, wife and more – that we forget who we really are. Besides, society has conditioned us to see women who think of their likes and dislikes, as selfish."

Artiste Lakshmi Sridhar spoke on her role which highlights her journey of living with quadriplegia over the past 18 years.

"Since it was going to be the first time I was sharing my story on stage, it was a challenge to capture everything within eight minutes in my script. The production is not about having people tell their stories, but rather inviting everyone present into a conversation that can seed transformation."

Hosted by Rotary Dist 3192 DEI team and Rotary Bangalore Skyway, the play will be showcased on February 28, at Science Gallery, Hebbal from 6pm to 8pm. Entry free.

CITYBEATS

Morning mash

ONGOING
Nasi and Mee have launched the Shiok Breakfast Club with a menu inspired by flavours of Southeast Asia. The Club celebrates taste and tradition and the menu includes Kaya toast (in-house Kaya jam on toasted Hokkaido milk bread), Fren-cha toast (brioche infused with matcha infused egg and milk mix) and an Asian-inspired avocado toast among others.
Available at Nasi and Mee, Convent Road. Call 89718 02954 for details.

As good as it gets

MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS
Looking for a buzzing atmosphere, lively music or a welcoming space to ease into your week? SOCIAL has come up with a special 50 % off plan on select drinks that will be available only on Mondays and Tuesdays. Choose from a range of energetic and eclectic drinks, cocktails and select spirits, in bold flavours and interesting combinations. The 50% discount offer will be valid for a limited time.
On at all SOCIAL outlets in Bengaluru.

Leafy prelude

FEBRUARY 27
Banyan Tree is presenting the 18th edition of *Teen Prahar,* a unique musical experience. The artistic line up includes sitarist Shujaat Khan, vocalist Venkatesh Kumar and the Shishya Collective Ensemble featuring vocalists Shruti Vishwakarma and Swar Sharma, Sandeep Mishra on the sarangi, flautist Hrishikesh Majumdar, Rohit Deo on the tabla and Tejas Katoti on the harmonium.
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, 6pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.

INBRIEF

Actor assault case accused booked for ruckus in hotel

N.S. Sunil, alias Pulsar Suni, the key accused in the Kerala actor assault case, who is now on bail, has been booked by the police for allegedly causing a ruckus at a hotel over a perceived delay in serving food on Sunday. He allegedly smashed a glass tumbler, besides making death threats to the hotel employees. Later, he was released on station bail. He was earlier released on stringent bail conditions after being imprisoned for over seven years in the actor assault case.

Free laddu distribution begins at Srisailam

The Srisailam temple management started distribution of one free laddu to each devotee who has darshan of the Lord Mallikarjuna and Goddess Bhramaramba from Monday, and it will go on till February 27. The presiding deities of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bhramaramba were taken out on a celestial ride on Pushpa Pallaki in the night.

Governor S. Abdul Naseer on Monday reached Srisailam to offer prayers at the temple on the occasion of the ongoing Mahasivaratri Brahmotsavams.

MLCs under MLA quota polls in Telangana on March 20

Elections for the Legislative Council under the MLA quota in Telangana will be held on March 20. The Election Commission of India released the schedule for elections to 10 vacancies arising in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh by the end of March. There will be five vacancies each in both States. In Telangana, the tenure of five MLCs – Satyavathi Rathod, Mahmood Ali, Mirza Riyaz ul Hasan, Sheri Subhash Reddy and E. Mallesham – will conclude by the end of March.

Round-the-clock efforts on to rescue 8 stuck in tunnel

Personnel from India's nine top agencies are collaborating in the operation to rescue people trapped in the SLBC tunnel; Minister says he is not sure when the operations will conclude

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

It's a race against time as the country's top nine agencies, renowned for handling rescue operations during natural disasters, worked round the clock to save eight persons trapped inside the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district.

A part of the under-construction tunnel collapsed on Saturday morning.

"The crack teams comprising experienced personnel from the Army, Navy, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Hydrological Investigation Agency and other related departments have been formed into a unified command to oversee the rescue operations," Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Accident site: The SLBC project area in Nagarkurnool district on Monday. A portion of the tunnel has collapsed. NAGARA GOPAL

Mr. Reddy said that experienced personnel are meeting every couple of hours to review the situation and devising plans to overcome the hurdles that arose with each passing hour.

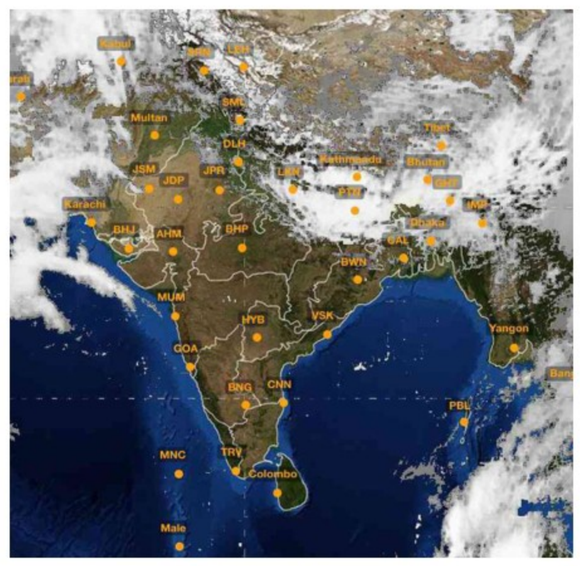
"On Saturday, a small leak was noticed which the site engineers found not very unusual," the Minister said, quoting an official of a U.S. company involved in the project.

However, disaster stuck when there was a sudden gush of water and muck with such force that workers had to flee to save their lives. Eight persons who were close to the point could not rush out.

Mr. Reddy said they were not sure when the rescue operations would conclude. "The joint rescue teams are putting in their best to ensure a happy ending," he remarked.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.7	17.2	Kozhikode	—	35.6	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	18.5	Kurnool	—	38.2	22.1
Aizawl	0.3	29.1	12.0	Lucknow	—	28.2	12.6
Allahabad	—	29.9	12.0	Madurai	—	36.0	22.1
Bengaluru	—	32.2	19.2	Mangaluru	—	36.9	23.6
Bhopal	—	28.8	14.2	Mumbai	—	38.4	21.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.5	21.3	Mysuru	—	33.3	17.9
Chandigarh	—	27.0	11.6	New Delhi	—	27.5	10.7
Chennai	—	32.1	23.4	Patna	—	28.0	16.8
Coimbatore	—	34.8	21.4	Port Blair	—	31.6	27.2
Dehradun	—	26.4	10.6	Puducherry	—	31.8	22.6
Gangtok	4	16.2	6.4	Pune	—	37.2	19.2
Goa	—	36.0	24.0	Raipur	—	33.6	19.8
Guwahati	0.2	28.3	12.0	Ranchi	—	27.1	13.2
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.0	8.0
Hyderabad	—	32.8	18.8	Shimla	—	19.0	7.2
Imphal	—	25.5	12.6	Srinagar	—	18.0	0.2
Jaipur	—	29.5	14.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.4	25.1
Kochi	—	32.4	25.4	Tiruchi	—	34.7	22.0
Kohima	3	26.4	6.5	Vijayawada	—	33.4	22.0
Kolkata	—	31.4	20.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.9	22.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.93	..99	15	... 240	...162	
Bengaluru	.11	..12	16	... 108	...102	
Chennai	.16	..—	.—	... 106	81	
Delhi	.12	112	62	... 244	...202	
Hyderabad	...9	..27	52	... 338	.....—	
Kolkata	...5	164	28	... 116	...117	
Lucknow	.12	..83	45	... 203	...150	
Mumbai	..—	..77	58	... 113	...134	
Pune	.22	131	53	... 215	...155	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..55	25	 71	...119	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 227 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mass murder rattles Kerala after youth confesses to killing 5 family members

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A wave of shock swept across Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala following a killing spree by a youngster on Monday evening.

A 23-year-old man, Afan, allegedly murdered five members of his family and severely injured his mother.

Around 6.15 p.m., he walked into the Venjaramoodu police station and 'confessed' to hacking his relatives to death at different locations. He also claimed to have left a gas cylinder open at his house.

The police followed up on the information and soon found two bodies and one seriously injured woman at Afan's house.

The deceased were identified as Afan's brother, Afsan, and a woman named Farzana.

While confessing to his crimes, Afan claimed to have consumed rat poison.

His mother, Shemi, who was found badly wounded, was rushed to a hospital.

On further investigation, the police discovered the body of Afan's grandmother, Salmabeevi, in her home at Pangode. They also found bodies of Latheef, Afan's paternal uncle, and his wife, Shahida, at their home in S.N. Puram.

This prompted the police to rush him to Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital.

Though his family is known to be financially well-off, Afan reportedly told the police that they had been experiencing severe financial difficulties.

The police are yet to ascertain the motive for the killings. They also suspected the youth to be addicted to narcotic substances.

Anti-Hindi stir spreads to more districts of Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
TENKASI

The anti-Hindi agitation spearheaded by the DMK spread to Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi district on Monday, with the ruling party workers defacing signboards in railway stations, a post office, and a BSNL office with black paint.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) had on Sunday booked 'Thendral' Selvaraj, in-charge of DMK's legal wing for Coimbatore south, and four others for defacing the Hindi words on the signage at the Pollachi Junction in Coimbatore district.

DMK cadre entered Pavoorchatram Railway Station in Tenkasi and defaced the Hindi letters in the signage at the entrance, the platform, and on electric poles. DMK's Tenkasi south district in-charge, V. Jayabalan, led the protest organised at the railway station. MLA E. Raja led the protest at Sankarankovil railway station, and defaced the Hindi words on platform signboards.

The RPF registered a case against the protesters.

DMK functionaries also organised a protest at Alangulam, where party cadre defaced Hindi letters in the BSNL office and post office.

The Federation of Tamil Nadu Students' Organisations of Tirunelveli East announced that its cadre would organise a demonstration near the Indian Space Research Organisation's Propulsion Research Complex at Mahendragiri on Tirunelveli - Kanniyakumari highway on Tuesday.

BJP State president K. Annamalai said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin should not hide behind the "imaginary Hindi imposition".

CPI(M)'s clarification note on draft political resolution triggers row

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s latest clarification note to its cadres on its month-old draft political resolution ahead of the party's 24th national conference in Madurai in April has triggered a political row in Kerala.

The note discusses the perils of the Central government's "Hindutva corporate authoritarianism" evolving into neo-fascism if the "BJP-RSS" were not "fought back and halted."

'Not the actual one'

The note says the CPI(M) does not view the current disposition at the Centre as a "fascist or neo-fascist" government. Nor does the party characterise India as a neo-fascist State yet.

The note explains that 10 years of continuous RSS-controlled Bharatiya Janata Party rule has resulted in a manifestation of neo-fascist characteristics and not the actual development of a neo-fascist government or political set-up.

However, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan interpreted the note as a political exoneration of the Modi government's "classic fascist character" and capitulation to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) agenda.

CPI stand

Communist Party of India (CPI) State Secretary Binoy Viswam told *The Hindu* that his party viewed the Modi government as fascist, given the RSS's ideological roots in pre-second World War fascist movements in Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany.

The note says CPI(M) does not view the current disposition at the Centre as a 'fascist or neo-fascist' govt.

CPI(M) Central Committee member A.K. Balan accused the Congress of seeking to shield itself from the political embarrassment wrought by MP Shashi Tharoor's disillusionment with the party's State leadership and his endorsement of the LDF government's industrial policy, and prediction of a third consecutive LDF victory in the Assembly polls by laying down a smokescreen of misinformation about the party's draft political resolution.

Mr. Balan quoted Bulgarian Communist idealogue Georgi Dimitrov's definition of fascism (as the open, terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist) to validate the party line.

He said it was politically unrealistic to state that India had regressed into a fascist polity yet.

'A different response'

"The Congress should know that the existence of a fascist State in India would have already warranted a different political response, including a broad-based national liberation struggle. The party line is in conjunction with the political resolution adopted by the 22nd and 23rd meets," Mr. Balan said.

A.P. Budget session begins amid protest by YSRCP legislators

V. Raghavendra
AMARAVATI

The budget session of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature commenced with a speech by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer on Monday.

The Governor was flanked by Council Chairman K. Moshenu Raju and Assembly Speaker Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu.

Soon after Mr. Nazeer started addressing the MLCs and MLAs in the Assembly Hall, members of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) trooped into the well of the House shouting slogans with the demand that YSRCP should be recognised as the Opposition party.

YSRCP president and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, ex-minister Botsa Satyanarayana and senior MLC Umareddy Venkateswarlu were seated in their allotted places when the YSRCP MLCs and MLAs raised 'we-want- justice' slogans. Exactly 10 minutes later, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy called them back and they staged a walkout even as MLCs and MLAs of the ruling coalition heckled them, by shouting 'shame..shame'.

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu coming out of the Assembly after the joint session of legislature in Amaravati on Monday. G.N. RAO

Continuing his speech, Mr. Nazeer said the people have bestowed an unprecedented mandate on the NDA government in the Assembly elections and it reflected their trust and confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union govt.'s relief package for Wayanad inadequate: Priyanka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling the Wayanad rehabilitation package of ₹529.5 crore announced by the Centre as "inadequate" and the conditions imposed as "unfair", Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urged him to convert the relief package to Kerala into a grant and extend the time period for its implementation.

The package comes with two conditions: first that the funds shall be disbursed, not as a grant as is the norm, but as a loan, second, that they should be spent in their entirety by March 31. "These conditions are not only unfair, but also display a shocking lack of sensitivity towards the people of Chooralmala and Mundakkai who have suffered such shattering losses," Ms. Vadra said.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

She added that 110 acres of agricultural land was destroyed, and 658 students still await re-enrolment into schools.

People who were dependent on tourism and agriculture were still looking for a means to earn a living. While the people of Wayanad, the MP said, were "resilient and brave", it was impossible for them to overcome this catastrophe without "decisive financial and infrastructural support from both the State and Centre".

"Unfortunately, the rehabilitation process is progressing at a painful pace," she added.

Alert youth foil attempt by a gang to decamp with ATM in Kurnool

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

An attempt by burglars to take away an automated teller machine (ATM) was foiled by alert youngsters at Chinnatekur village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night.

The incident took place on the National Highway in the Ulindakonda police station limits.

According to the police, around 1.30 a.m., a few youngsters – M. Mahesh, Shaik Ilyas, Dilawar Shaik Abdul Rahman and M. Hanef Basha – noticed a gang of three or four persons trying to take away a Bank of Baroda ATM on the village outskirts.

They immediately alerted the Ulindakonda sub-inspector of police Dhanunjay and raised an alarm following which the burglars sped away in a tow truck, leaving the machine behind.

Mr. Dhanunjay and the sub-inspector of Orvakal police station, Sunil, along with the youngsters, chased the tow vehicle for some time. But the offenders abandoned the vehicle on the highway and fled in the darkness.

The police said the burglars had cut the power supply and the CCTV connection before prising open the ATM centre.

The burglars forcibly opened the shutter of an ATM centre, pulled out the cash machine inside using ropes and attempted to lift it into a tow vehicle

After forcibly opening the shutter of the centre, they pulled out the ATM musing ropes and attempted to lift it into the tow vehicle.

Police sources said that the vehicle had been stolen from Kurnool city, and that they were verifying CCTV footage to identify the culprits.

It is suspected that an inter-State gang could be behind the foiled attempt.

Pat for youngsters

Kurnool Deputy Superintendent of Police J. Babu Prasad, Kurnool Rural Circle Inspector Chandrababu Naidu and others felicitated Mr. Mahesh, Mr. Ilyas, Mr. Rahman and Mr. Basha for their alertness and helping the police to foil the burglary attempt.

Not business as usual

India's reputation for high-quality generic drugs should not be put at risk

The pharmacy of the global South is facing a crisis of reputation. After cough syrups made by pharmaceutical companies based in India, which had unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and/or ethylene glycol, killed 66 children in Gambia, 65 children in Uzbekistan in 2022, and 12 children in Cameroon in 2023, and India-made eye drops contaminated by drug-resistant bacteria killed three persons and blinded eight in the U.S., again in 2023, the spotlight is back on Indian drug companies for all the wrong reasons. A BBC Eye investigation has brought to light the criminal actions of Aveo Pharmaceuticals, a Maharashtra-based company, which was manufacturing and exporting unapproved, highly addictive opioid drug combinations to West Africa. The "medicines" contain tapentadol, a powerful opioid, and carisoprodol, a highly addictive muscle relaxant. While the Indian drug regulator has approved tapentadol and carisoprodol as standalone drugs, the combination has no clearance. Even if the company's claim that the drug combination has been approved by the State drug authority turns out to be correct, it is still illegal as only the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) can approve any novel fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs for safety and efficacy. It is only after this approval that State drug authorities can issue a manufacturing licence. The Health Ministry routinely banning FDCs is only because the State drug authorities ignore this provision in the law with impunity.

India questioned and denied the World Health Organization's report about the lethal cough syrup sent to Gambia, but in the latest case, CDSCO and the State regulatory authority swung into action even in the absence of any complaint by West African countries. The reason: the BBC investigation's irrefutable video evidence that the company was in the "business" of manufacturing and exporting the dangerous combination drug despite knowing the harmful effects. The seizure of nearly 13 million "medicines" and 26 batches of active pharmaceutical ingredients of tapentadol and carisoprodol are clinching evidence for taking criminal action against the company. While the moves by the authorities – to issue a 'stop activity' order, withdraw the manufacturing licence and permission to export the drugs by any company, and a show cause notice – inspire some confidence, only stringent punishment can serve as a deterrent. Indian pharmaceutical companies are known in the global South for their high-quality generic drugs. It is for the drug regulator to ensure that India continues to be famous for this and not gain notoriety for producing and exporting deadly synthetic opioids as drugs. Manufacturing synthetic opioid drugs cannot be any pharmaceutical company's "business".

New direction

Germany needs to talk to Russia to drive a hard bargain for Europe

When Germans went to vote on Sunday, in one of the most consequential elections in the country's post-reunification history, there was little doubt about the outcome. The Olaf Scholz-led three-party coalition had collapsed months earlier and his centrist Social Democratic Party (SPD) was hugely unpopular. Germany, once hailed as a model country, was in its third year of economic contraction and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), with neo-Nazi roots, was surging ahead with its anti-establishment and anti-immigrant campaign. In the results, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, Christian Social Union, led by Friedrich Merz, emerged as the largest bloc, with 28.5% votes, while the AfD doubled its vote share to 20.8%. The Social Democrats got a 16.1% share, one of its worst performances since the 19th century, while the Greens won 11.6%. The left-wing Die Linke saw rising popularity, with 8.8% of the vote. Mr. Merz had asked voters for a strong mandate to fix Germany's problems. While the CDU's performance is weaker than expected, its strong lead puts it on the path toward power. He will now kick off a complicated process of coalition talks.

Mr. Merz has already ruled out any alliance with the AfD, which would be allocated 152 seats. In the 630-member Bundestag, a coalition needs at least 316 seats to form a government. So, it is likely that Mr. Merz, whose bloc has 208 seats, would form a two-party coalition government with the Social Democrats, with its 120 seats. But government formation would be the least of his challenges. He must reboot a contracting economy, which has barely grown since the pre-COVID years, tackle the immigration problem, which was exploited by the far-right, and formulate foreign policy that addresses both the Ukraine war and Europe's security challenges. As Germany joined western allies in imposing sanctions on Russia, it effectively lost access to cheap Russian gas. The country is today grappling with a deep recession and deindustrialisation. And as the crisis deepened, the German elites' bid to weaken the AfD through a political 'firewall' ceased working. But Mr. Merz has the advantage of leading a new government on a new mandate. He should look at the U.S. reset with Russia to begin afresh rather than as an impediment to furthering the old policies that have backfired. His focus should be on bringing the Ukraine war to a quick and just end and rebuilding the economy. He should also drive a new, hard bargain with Russia for security and stability in Europe. Only a peaceful Europe can guarantee Germany's continued rise as the continent's economic and political engine.

The RTI is now the 'right to deny information'

Shailesh Gandhi

is a former Central Information Commissioner

The introduction of the Right to Information (RTI) Act was a move that generated great hope among citizens since it recognised them to be the rulers of the nation. It empowered them to seek information from the government, with dignity and respect. It looked as if the 'swaraj' that they had missed would be delivered to them. The Act codified their fundamental right to information and was one of the best transparency laws in the world. It appeared that it would curb corruption and arbitrariness, with citizens being the vigilance monitors of their government. But, it must be conceded, it has fallen far short of our expectations and the state of our democracy is not better.

Within a few months, the government realised that this was a transfer of power from public servants to the citizens. In less than a year it moved to amend the law which would have weakened the RTI Act. But there were widespread protests by citizens across the nation. Sensing the mood of the nation, the government dropped the amendments.

A gradual erosion

The RTI Act had created Information Commissions as the final appellate authorities to implement the law. Most of the posts of 'information commissioner' were taken up by retired bureaucrats. After working for decades as senior bureaucrats, it was difficult for them to hand over power to citizens and recognise that they were the rightful owners of the government. No attempt was made to select people with a record in transparency. Many of them looked at these jobs as post-retirement sinecures and worked only for a few hours. While the national average of the disposal of cases by High Court judges is over 2,500 in a year, the national average of disposal of cases by the commissioners was less than this. Given the fact that the complexity of cases before commissions is far less than the cases before the High Courts, each commissioner should have been clearing at least over 5,000 cases in a year. While the law mandated a period of 30 days for the information to be provided and the same period for the first appellate authorities, it did not specify any time limit for the commissioners. Many commissions began to have pendency of over a year. The right to information was being converted into a right to history. Many ordinary citizens could not pursue the issue of what was now a denial of information. The penal provisions of the RTI Act were the teeth of the Act, but most information commissioners were reluctant to use them. The governments delayed appointing commissioners, which only increased the backlogs.

The clear message of various High Court judgments was that the exemptions listed under Section 8 of the RTI Act were restrictions on a citizen's fundamental right and had to be construed strictly as in the law. Parliament intended most information to be provided and crafted the exemptions carefully.

> Citizens and the media must take up the responsibility to ensure that the original RTI Act is followed and not allow any distortions

The entire approach to a citizen's right to information changed in August 2011 when the Supreme Court of India held in *Central Board of Secondary Education & Anr. vs Aditya Bandopadhyay & Ors*, in paragraph 33: "Some High Courts have held that section 8 of RTI Act is in the nature of an exception to section 3 which empowers the citizens with the right to information, which is a derivative from the freedom of speech; and that therefore section 8 should be construed strictly, literally and narrowly. This may not be the correct approach."

In paragraph 37 it made a comment without any evidence: "Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counterproductive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty."

This justified treating RTI as an undesirable activity and labelling RTI users as outcastes. It justified not giving information and attacks on RTI users.

The subject of 'personal information'

The second major blow came with the judgment in *Girish Ramchandra Deshpande vs Cen. Information Commr. & Ors.*, in October 2012.

A RTI applicant, Girish Ramchandra Deshpande, had sought copies of all memos, show cause notices and censure/punishment awarded to a public servant. A.B. Lute. He had also sought other details such as his movable and immovable properties and details of his investments, lending and borrowing from banks and other financial institutions.

This was denied claiming exemption under Section 8(1)(j). This section exempts "information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer ... is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information: Provided that the information, which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person."

A simple reading shows that under this clause, 'personal' can be denied if it has apparently no relationship to any public activity or interest; or the disclosure of the said information would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual.

The Court did not rule on whether the information was an outcome of a public activity or if its disclosure would amount to an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual. It denied the information by reading only the first seven words of the provision and saying it was 'personal information'. Most information can be linked to some person. Realising that it may be difficult for public information officers and other appellate authorities to decide on what constitutes privacy, Parliament gave a simple test in the proviso – that information which would not be denied to Parliament or legislature would not be denied to any person. This can only have one meaning. That anyone claiming that information would be denied to the citizen would make a subjective statement that he would deny the information to Parliament.

It is well settled that literal interpretation should be given to a statute if the same does not lead to absurdity. In *Nasiruddin and others vs Sita Ram Agarwal* (2003) 2 SCC 577, the Court has stated: "37. The court's jurisdiction to interpret a statute can be invoked when the same is ambiguous... It cannot re-write or recast legislation. It is also necessary to determine that there exists a presumption that the legislature has not used any superfluous words. It is well settled that the real intention of the legislation must be gathered from the language used."

Girish Ramchandra Deshpande amends the RTI Act and has been used as a precedent in six subsequent Court judgments and has become the gold standard to convert RTI into an RDI, or Right to Deny Information. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act takes a cue from this and amends the RTI Act itself. There are other cases in which words in the law have not been accorded their usual meanings.

A call to citizens

To ensure that the RTI fulfils its original promise we should go by the original Act and not allow any distortions. Citizens and the media must take up the responsibility to discuss and defend it. Otherwise, we will have a dilution of our fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

Fencing out interfaith relationships in the new India

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On January 27, 2025, Uttarakhand became the first Indian State to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), placing private relationships under state surveillance. The official claim is that it would restore gender justice, create "uniformity", and address administrative oversight. However, when taken along with existing anti-conversion laws, this marks a coordinated legal push to segregate communities – not just in faith, but also in love and daily life. The UCC is the final blow, ensuring that all forms of interfaith relationships are regulated in the 'New India'.

The introduction of more hurdles

Interfaith marriages already face immense social barriers. A survey (2014) of over 70,000 respondents found that fewer than 10% of urban Indians had a family member who married outside their caste. Interfaith unions were even rarer – barely 5% of urban respondents reported any marriages in their family outside their religion. The secular Special Marriage Act, 1954, has administrative hurdles, including a mandatory 30-day notice period, subjecting couples to scrutiny. Meanwhile, rigid anti-conversion laws, now enforced in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan, among several other States, have further criminalised religious conversion for marriage.

These laws create bureaucratic traps – as mandatory declarations, waiting periods, and district magistrate approvals – that deter conversions for marriage. Worse, they embolden vigilante groups, often linked to right-wing organisations, to justify harassment, policing, and violence against interfaith couples, particularly Hindu-Muslim. A news portal found that at least 63 of 101 police complaints invoking the U.P. anti-conversion law against Christians, were filed by third-party vigilante groups. Instead of protecting individuals, these laws provide legal cover for extrajudicial interventions, often with police complicity.

Against this background, the UCC's provisions on live-in relationships take state scrutiny to a new extreme – even informal relationships are subject to surveillance. Live-in relationships are now legally required to be registered with district authorities. This includes a 16-page application with official documentation (Aadhaar cards, residential proof), seeking approval from "religious leaders or community heads," and notifying family members. The registrar must inform the couple's parents or guardians about their relationship. Failure to register is punishable with up to six months of imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000.

> The enactment of a Uniform Civil Code, in addition to existing anti-conversion laws, is eroding individual rights and the fabric of India's pluralistic society

These rules make it nearly impossible for couples, particularly interfaith ones, to live without oversight. It is no surprise, then, that only one live-in couple has successfully registered its relationship in Uttarakhand. Others have sought legal protection from the High Court, even as a Bajrang Dal leader claims to have sourced details on live-in applications. The ability of such vigilantes to interfere in private relationships underscores how the UCC and anti-conversion laws work in tandem to suppress interfaith unions.

A form of apartheid

The result is a complex legal machinery that is actively working to segregate communities, entrench religious divisions, and institutionalise a form of social apartheid: individuals cannot marry or even be in a relationship with the so-called 'other' without prior legal approval. These laws create barriers for interfaith couples at every stage whether in marriage or informal cohabitation.

This combined system functions in three ways.

First, by strengthening traditional religious institutions. The requirement for religious certification in both UCC and anti-conversion laws formalises the power of religious leaders over personal relationships in a secular democracy. This contradicts the constitutional guarantee of individual freedom, reinforcing the idea that relationships must adhere to religious and community norms rather than personal choice.

Second, by enabling families to exercise greater control over women. Both laws disproportionately impact women, who often face pressure, coercion, or even violent punishment for engaging in interfaith and inter-caste relationships. By notifying families of live-in relationships, the UCC makes women more vulnerable to honour-based violence and familial control. Women in interfaith relationships are often framed as victims of manipulation, stripping them of agency and reinforcing patriarchal control over their choices.

Third, by providing legal cover for vigilantism. Right-wing vigilantes now have a legal framework to monitor, report, and harass interfaith couples, married and unmarried, under the guise of preserving tradition and the law. When an interfaith couple attempts to register a live-in relationship or convert for marriage, vigilante groups are often the first to know, due to the legal requirement of public notices and family notifications.

Amid rising hate speech and polarisation, these laws effectively legalise and entrench the separation of religious communities, preventing interfaith interaction at all levels. Similar to the apartheid-era South Africa or Nazi Germany, which banned inter-racial unions, the effect of the UCC and anti-conversion laws is to institutionalise segregation by making interfaith relationships, whether marital or informal, almost impossible.

It could be catching on

Looking ahead, Uttarakhand's UCC could be a blueprint for other States. Rajasthan's High Court recently considered mandatory registration of live-in relationships, closely following Uttarakhand's model. The Rajasthan Assembly enacted an anti-conversion law. Gujarat is also contemplating a draft UCC modelled on similar lines. These legal trends point toward a broader movement toward a systematic regulation of personal relationships.

In India, love and faith are deeply personal and subjective experiences that each individual defines on their own terms. These legal developments not only threaten individual rights but also undermine the very fabric of India's pluralistic society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DOGE charge, USAID 'grant'

The 47th President of the United States has been making a series of remarks ever since he assumed power at the White House. The controversy surrounding USAID 'funding' for voter turnout in India seems to have been blown out of proportion (February 24). Perhaps the ruling dispensation in India ought to be thick-skinned. The U.S. should stop meddling in the affairs of other countries particularly when it does not seem to have incontrovertible proof to substantiate its claims.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The issue could only add to growing tensions between India and the U.S., which is already under some strain because of trade issues and concerns over human rights. With conflicting media reports on USAID 'funds', a lack of clarity could only further damage trust between the two nations. The Indian Prime Minister and the U.S. President must act quickly to clear the air.

Muskan Shekhawat,
Jaipur, Rajasthan

Cleaning the Yamuna

Numerous attempts have been made in the past 35 years to clean the Yamuna. But there are issues such as having less than the required rate of flow of water to ensure an ecological balance, poor estimates of a surging population, illegal construction, unregulated industrial sewage and sub-standard effluent treatment plants. As a single political party is now in power in all the Yamuna basin States, there should be no excuse on the part of the governments concerned in coordinating plans.

Vaibhav Goyal,
Chandigarh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The UGC's mandate is to elevate, not strangulate

Pulapre Balakrishnan,

Honorary Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been in the news again, with the States pushing back on its directive on the procedure for appointment of vice chancellors. It is unusual for chief ministers to concern themselves so closely with minutiae of this kind, but those of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have campaigned against it, terming the directive unconstitutional as it impinges upon matters that are the prerogative of the States. They are particularly unhappy that the UGC may be cementing the practice of Governors choosing vice chancellors. As the States shoulder much of the burden of financing universities, and have a deciding role in instituting them, their insistence that the elected State government rather than the Governor appointed by the Centre have the final say has validity.

A meaningful innovation

However, the substantive part of the UGC's recent directive was an amended guideline for the qualifications for a vice chancellor. The requirement that the vice chancellor must be an academic has been rescinded, and eligibility has been extended to persons who have distinguished themselves in other fields, including industry. This is actually a rare instance in recent times of a meaningful and potentially gainful innovation by the UGC. Globally, heads of academic institutions have not always been professional academics. In the U.S., former secretaries of state are invited to serve as faculty in the best universities of that country. The colleges of Oxford and Cambridge have distinguished themselves by choosing as their heads ex-parliamentarians, writers, and journalists, and no one has thought the practice odd. The public very likely see such appointments as adding value, as most of these individuals would have had exceptional careers.

India is not a stranger to this practice. Over 50 years ago, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appointed G. Parthasarathy as the first vice chancellor of JNU. He had played many roles in a distinguished career of public service and went on to launch JNU as a premier university of India. So the suggestion that inducting persons from outside to assume leadership of the university is likely to be damaging is unwarranted.

How the UGC should be judged

Not only is it far fetched to decry the UGC recommendation on the qualifications for a vice chancellor as "unconstitutional" and against the spirit of federalism, but such complaints detract from a scrutiny of the UGC's record on the parameter by which it ought to be judged. The UGC was established, by an Act of Parliament, in 1956, with the express intention that it maintains acceptable standards of higher education across the country. What it has instead succeeded in achieving is to have imposed a uniformity of rules and regulations across universities while achieving next to nothing in elevating them to global standards in the dissemination and production of knowledge. The poor preparedness of India's graduates has been flagged in public. Recently, a judge of the Supreme Court lamented the quality of young lawyers practising in India's courts. Some years ago, the head of a leading company of the Tata Group spoke of the quality of engineers India is producing. Note that this only points to the standard of instruction in the higher education system. We have not even begun to talk of the quality of research, including that of the PhDs being awarded.

Curiously, the UGC seems to have nothing to say on the quality of education in universities. Instead, it deploys all its resources and energies to procedural matters that are best left to the educational institutions themselves. Its interventions encompass rules on an attendance requirement for students, the regulation of faculty time, the maintenance of records on examinations conducted, and procedure by which the curriculum is chosen. Some of these requirements were part of the apparatus of generalised surveillance of the natives in colonial times. It is unfortunate that they have not been junked. Much of it has no bearing on learning, apart from undermining faculty performance, the lifeblood of the university. Having managed to tie down a university's functioning to the last detail, the UGC has succeeded in expunging all agency from faculty, who once took responsibility for learning outcomes but consider themselves no longer accountable for them, as their wings have been clipped. Fifty years ago, the university was a freer space and with greater faculty presence. It is difficult to make sense of the development that the 1991 reforms have been accompanied by more intrusive regulation of India's universities. It is also difficult to makes sense of the fact that as the country's per capita income has risen, the stature of its public university has measurably declined. Work at the cutting edge of science by Satyen Bose in Dacca and S. Chandrashekar in Madras in the early part of the last century took place in public universities at a time when India was far poorer.

The production of knowledge is an enterprise without borders. Nothing demonstrates this better than the spectacular emergence of DeepSeek, the AI App from China. We must reflect deeply on why India is not a player in this game. Globally, universities are one of the sites of production of knowledge but those in India are not governed with a view to attaining this goal. A high compliance burden due to micro management by the regulator and excessive social engineering imposed by political parties have resulted in their persistent underperformance. The UGC's original mandate behoves it to address the situation.

Micro management by the UGC and excessive social engineering imposed by political parties have resulted in the persistent under-performance of our universities

A united face for investors

The Opposition has proved a point by attending the Invest Kerala Global Summit

STATE OF PLAY

G. Anand
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The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government is basking on the perceived success of the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS), which was held in Kochi last week to open the State to trade and investment.

The LDF could claim that it enlisted the national leadership of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its ambitious initiative to spur Kerala on the path of robust and sustainable economic growth. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues, including Industries Minister Rajeeve and Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal, shared the stage with the Leader of the Opposition, V.D. Satheesan, Union Minister for Transport Nitin Gadkari, and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. This was a rare coming together of various political leaders.

However, there is more to what meets the eye. The two fronts in Kerala are preparing to face each other in the local body elections this year and the Assembly elections in 2026. This might explain Kerala's major bid to woo investment and spur development.

The UDF alleged that the LDF, when it was in the Opposition, had boycotted global investment meetings and chased away investors, including a European car manufacturer. On the other hand, said the UDF, it had attended IKGS to highlight its starkly different approach to the State's economic development.

The two fronts have also been arguing about the LDF's

claims that the growth of the start-up sector in Kerala has been "stupendous" and industrial development has been "dynamic". The UDF said that the LDF's claim of establishing 3 lakh industrial units in the State since 2021 is not reflected in Kerala's GDP. It accused the government of counting family-run convenience shops, confectionaries, and eateries as MSME units to justify its claims on paper.

The LDF's claim of a ₹30,000 crore infusion of investment into the State's industry was not reflected in any national economic survey, the UDF added.

The UDF also questioned the credibility of the claim that Kerala ranks first on the 'ease of doing business' rating. It alleged that the ranking agency drew the "erroneous inference" from the "inflated" figures provided by the LDF government. It also noted that Kerala's IT export values appeared to increase on paper due to the decline in the rupee. Kerala had only one unicorn company in the start-up sector. It said that Kerala's start-up sector earnings were paltry compared to those of neighbouring States.

The UDF cited instances of "investor suicide" in Kerala, particularly in strongholds of the Left, and alleged that the LDF had turned the State into a graveyard for entrepreneurs. In an acerbic editorial, the Congress's Kerala mouthpiece, Veekshanam, said that lauding Kerala's "dismal" industrial growth under the LDF government was akin to "giving the peace prize to an executioner".

The LDF countered this by stating that Congress MP Shashi Tharoor had praised Kerala's "stupendous growth" in the start-up sector as well as the State's "remarkable" 'ease of doing business' climate. It claimed that Mr. Tharoor had drawn the inference from data published by credible national and international monitoring agencies, including NITI Aayog, that testified to Kerala's social, economic and development achievements.

The UDF and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and the LDF, differ over Kerala's economic direction. The UDF and the NDA took to the streets to protest the LDF's flagship semi-high-speed railway project, Silverline (K-Rail), in 2023. Both coalitions have branded the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), a State-run special purpose vehicle for raising funds from the open financial market to catalyse critical infrastructure development, a "white elephant". The Congress and the BJP have also accused the KIIFB of pushing the State into debt through its "outside the Budget" borrowings at "an extortionate interest rate" through masala bonds and without the foresight to invest in revenue-generating infrastructure. They have also opposed the LDF's purported move to impose a user toll on roads and bridges constructed with KIIFB funds.

While the UDF and the NDA may have made a point through their presence at the meet, whether the LDF may do the same in the future, if it finds itself in the Opposition, remains to be seen.

BSNL has turned a profit, but has not become profitable

Cost-cutting measures have led to profit in the recent quarter, but trouble on the income front persists

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis,
Kushal Varma J.V.
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) reported a quarterly net profit in FY25Q3, its first in over 17 years. While this is a significant moment for the beleaguered State-owned telecom company, there is still a long road to recovery.

BSNL has achieved a profit through a combination of cost-cutting measures and a slight increase in revenue. It earned a revenue of ₹19,330 crore from operations in 2024, close to half of what it earned in 2006 **(Chart 1)**.

The company's expenses fell drastically in 2021 **(Chart 2)**, following a huge reduction in the employee count using early voluntary retirement schemes **(Chart 3)**. From 2021, there was also a sharp reduction in finance costs, such as the interest paid on loans, and depreciation and amortisation expenses too **(Chart 4)**.

While cost-cutting measures have helped, the issues on the income front persist. Understandably, BSNL's once-flourishing landline business has bottomed out. However, its cellular business too has flattened out since the introduction of Reliance's Jio in 2016, as the average revenue earned per user declined rapidly **(Chart 5A)**. While its traditional broadband services have fizzled out, there is a slow but consistent uptick in its fibre-to-the-home internet business **(Chart 5B)**. A considerable amount of money is also made from leased lines – high-speed network for businesses – and by leasing its infrastructure **(Chart 5C)**.

BSNL's market share in the wireless business – where private players make most of their money – continues to decline. From over 20% in 2005, it halved to 10% by 2022 and went below 10% in the last two years **(Chart 6)**.

Not out of the woods

The data were sourced from BSNL's annual reports, Public Enterprise Survey Reports, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Chart 1 : The chart shows BSNL's revenue from operations from 2006 to 2024 (in ₹ crore)

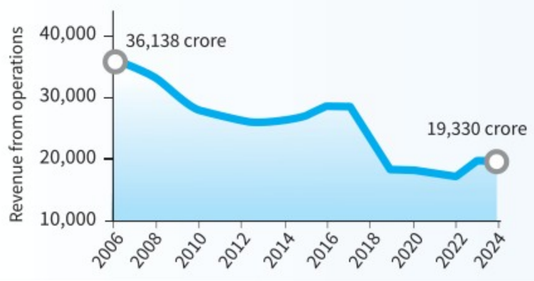


Chart 2 : The chart shows BSNL's total expenses from 2006 to 2024 (in ₹ crore)

Chart 3 : The chart shows the number of employees at BSNL between 2014 and 2024

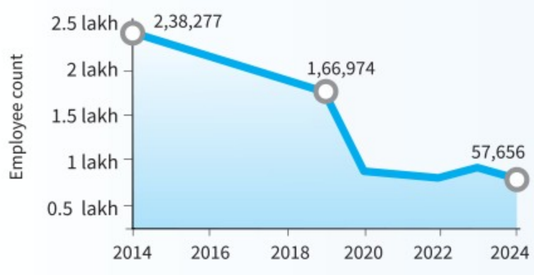


Chart 4 : The chart shows the break-up of BSNL's expenses from 2006 to 2024

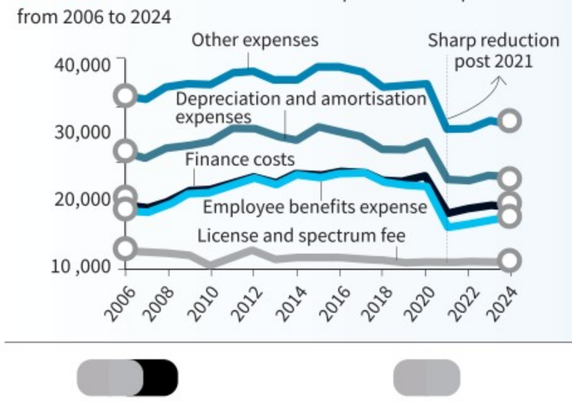


Chart 5A : The chart shows BSNL's revenue from sales of wired and wireless services from 2006 to 2024 (in ₹ crore)

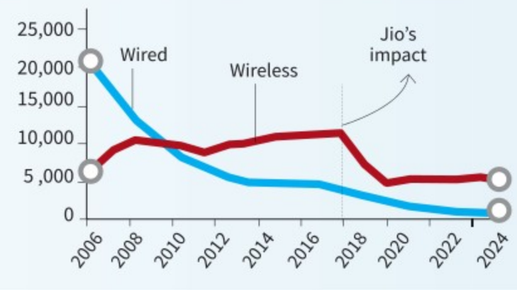


Chart 5B : BSNL's revenue from the sales of broadband services and Fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) (in ₹ crore)

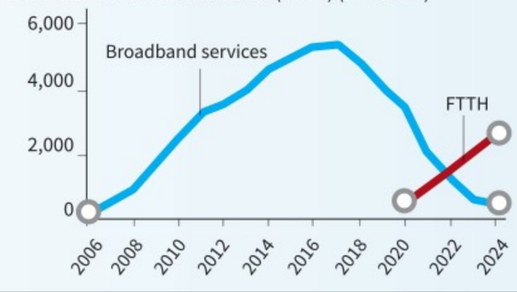


Chart 5C : The chart shows BSNL's revenue from leased lines and leased infrastructure (in ₹ crore)

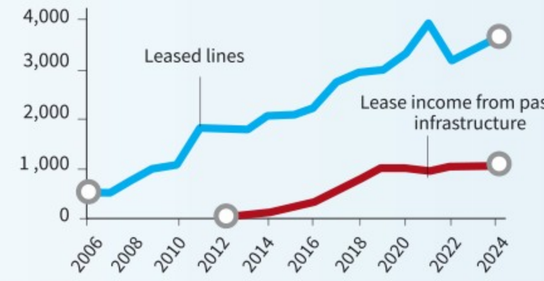
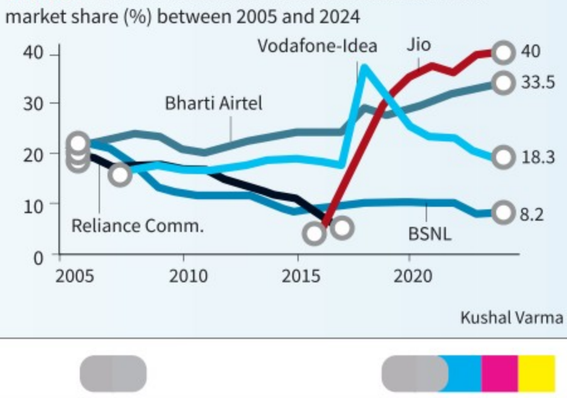
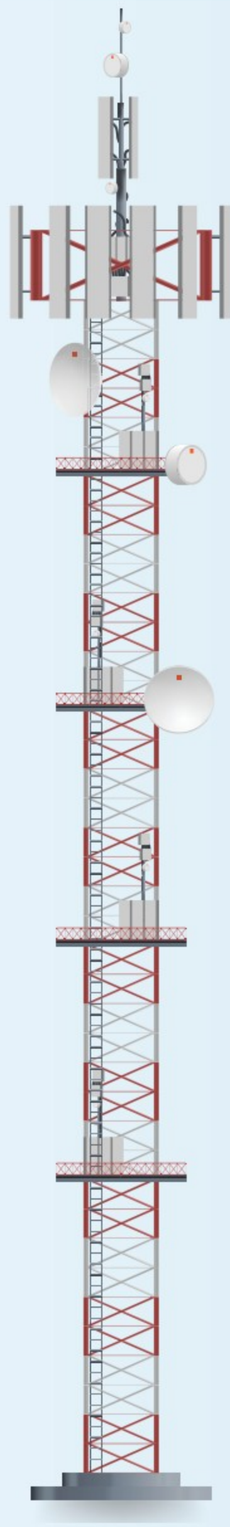


Chart 6 : The chart shows the Indian wireless subscriber market share (%) between 2005 and 2024





Kushal Varma J V is interning with The Hindu Data Team

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 25, 1975

Colourful coronation of Nepal King

Kathmandu, Feb. 24: Birendra Vikram Shah was this morning formally proclaimed King of Nepal at an elaborate function in his ancestral Hanuman Dhoka Palace in the ancient city. The colourful ceremony was performed with traditional Hindu rites by the chief royal priest.

The 29-year-old King donned the royal crown, studded with pearls, rubbies and emeralds and plumed with the feathers of the rare bird of paradise, after the royal priest tied the pair of golden plates, symbolising sovereignty, around his forehead and proclaimed him, amid the chanting of Vedic hymns, monarch.

The King, repeating the oath of office administered to him in Sanskrit by the priest, promised solemnly that he would act as the sentinel of the nation and hold the sovereignty of the country as sacred as divinity, love and protect his people and be just to them. The King then ascended the lotus-shaped throne embossed with figures of writhing snakes. The priest also placed a diamond tiara on the head of the Queen, seated beside the King.

Earlier, holy water was sprinkled on the King from 10 jars and flowers were showered on him. He was anointed by representatives of the four Hindu caste orders, symbolising caste unity in the person of the monarch and their rapport with one another.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 25, 1925

New water cure for burns

Recently one of the American medical journals reported all kinds of good things regarding the therapeutic value of distilled water in certain diseases when given by injection. Now, John Hopkins University Hospital reports remarkable success with their new water cure for serious burns. A man suffering from burns extending over two-thirds of his body was put at once into a bath filled with water, and kept there for six days and nights. The water was changed frequently, and the man was forced to drink great quantities of water. Nothing definite as to the action of this treatment is given, but the hospital claims, according to the "Chemist and Druggist", that where heretofore a person burnt as badly as this case was regarded as hopeless, this man will leave the institution within a week restored to health.

From Page One

Fresh hurdles delay rescue work in tunnel

Teams from L&T, Indian Institute Of Technology-Madras and IIT-Roorkee, who handled the Silkyara tunnel collapse in 2023, have joined the rescue operation with various electronic gadgets, in addition to the Army, Navy, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) personnel already involved in the operation.

Treading the last 150 metres was proving to be a herculean task due to the slush piled up on the tunnel floor and the constant water seepage with increasing intensity. "The tunnel length after 13.8 km from the mouth is covered with 6-7 ft of slush," a senior official coordinating the operation said.

Removal of debris and muck, along with continuous dewatering, has become necessary for the rescue team to make further headway. The conveyor belt used to bring out the material excavated by the TBM was being used as a ramp to reach the trapped workers.

In poll-bound Bihar, PM initiates fund transfer

Speaking at the event, Mr. Modi said he had a dream that every kitchen in the world should have at least one product grown by an Indian farmer. He pointed out that in the past years, owing to the government's efforts, India's agricultural exports had increased significantly, which enabled farmers to get better prices for their produce.

Mr. Modi said there were many agricultural products being exported for the first time, and now it was the turn of Bihar's Makhana (fox nuts). "Makhana is a superfood that now needs to be introduced to the world's markets. Therefore, in this year's Budget, the announcement was made to establish a Makhana Board for farmers. Out of the 365 days, I eat Makhana for at least 300 days."

He also used the occasion to attack the earlier government led by RJD chief Lalu Prasad and the Congress. Alluding to Mr. Prasad's earlier conviction in the fodder scam cases, Mr. Modi said, "Those who can eat the fodder of animals can never change the situation of farmers, but the NDA government has changed it."

Kumbh remark

Lashing out at Mr. Prasad for his remark that Maha Kumbh was "useless", Mr. Modi said: "The NDA government is working together to preserve India's glorious heritage and build a magnificent future but these "jungle raj" people hate our heritage faith and belief."

He further said, "A grand festival of unity, the Maha Kumbh, is taking place in Prayagraj. This is the greatest celebration of India's faith, India's unity, and harmony. People more than Europe's population have taken holy dip in Maha Kumbh, but the Jungle raj people of the RJD and the Congress are abusing Maha Kumbh. People who are irritated by the Ram Temple are not missing any opportunity to curse the Maha Kumbh as well. I know that Bihar will never forgive those who abuse the Maha Kumbh."

Earlier in the day, RJD chief slammed Mr. Modi over his Bihar visit by posting a message on social media platform X.

"The Prime Minister is in Bihar to shower lies and make empty promises. It's an election year, so to mislead people, the foundation stones and inaugurations of various Central schemes will now be done symbolically from Bihar, but Bihar will get nothing nor will people of Bihar will give him anything," he said in the post.

His son and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also took a dig at Mr. Modi, saying the Prime Minister was visiting the State keeping the Assembly election in mind. Ahead of the visit, he asked Mr. Modi 15 questions concerning Bihar, such as income of farmers, literacy rate poverty, unemployment, special package and closed sugar mills.

Mr. Kumar, on the other hand, reiterated that prior to 2005, people were afraid to step out of their homes after evening. There were frequent fights between Hindus and Muslims, which he ended, the Chief Minister claimed.

Court rejects Kerala BJP leader's bail plea

Mr. George had initially sought anticipatory bail from a sessions court in Kottayam, but his plea was rejected on February 6. He then moved the Kerala High Court, which also rejected his request.

Two days ago, he had requested time till February 24 to appear for the investigation in the case.

According to reports, Mr. George had originally planned to surrender at the Erattupetta police station on Monday with a rally of BJP workers. However, with the police denying permission for the rally citing potential tension in the town, Mr. George made a dramatic appearance at the JFMC by 11 a.m. The court then sent him to police custody for interrogation till 6 p.m. The court remanded him in judicial custody later.

This is not the first time that the former legislator has faced allegations of hate speech. In April 2022, he was booked for inflammatory remarks during the Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelanam in Thiruvananthapuram. Later that year, another case was registered against him for a communally sensitive speech in Kochi.

Cybercell records Allahbadia's statement

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Days after the *India's Got Latent* show controversy, YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Ashish Chanchlani on Monday appeared before Maharashtra Cyber, the nodal agency for cybercrime investigation in the State. The cybercell recorded their statements.

Mr. Allahbadia's comments in one of the episodes of the show created outrage, with multiple FIRs registered against him. The cybercell had sent summons to Mr. Allahbadia and Mr. Chanchlani for recording the statements.

The two reached the cybercell headquarters at Mahape in Navi Mumbai to record their statements. Earlier, Mr. Allahbadia requested for online recording of the statement, which the cell rejected.

Maharashtra Cyber is probing an obscenity case registered against Mr. Allahbadia and others over alleged obscene remarks made during the show.
(With inputs of PTI)

Protesting farmers in Punjab put today's 'Delhi march' on hold

Farmer organisations are set to meet Centre on March 19; farmer leader urges the AAP govt. to back their 12 demands in the Punjab Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Farmer and farm labourer groups protesting in Punjab over their long-pending demands announced on Monday that they would put on hold their Delhi march planned for Tuesday, as the next meeting with the Centre is scheduled for March 19.

In Amritsar, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said, "We have decided to postpone the foot march towards the national capital on February 25 as the next meeting with the Union government is scheduled for March 19."

MSP guarantee

Farmers have sought a legal guarantee for the procurement of crops at the minimum support price and farm loan waivers, and made other demands.

Finding a way: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan meets farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal in Chandigarh on Saturday. ANI

Groups of farmers under the banner of KMM and SKM (Non-Political) – the two umbrella bodies spearheading the agitation in Punjab – have been camping at Shambhu-Ambala and Khanauri-Jind (the inter-State boundaries between Haryana and Punjab) since February 13, 2024, after they were stopped from entering Haryana and marching to Delhi. Mr. Pandher, who is the coordinator of KMM, also urged the Aam Aadmi Party government in the State to pass a resolution in the ongoing session of the Punjab Assembly in support of the 12 demands of the farmers.

"Besides, the House should pass a resolution against the draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing as well and send it to the Centre," he added.

Woman's death in car crash in Bengal sparks harassment claims

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Police say the vehicle of the deceased was chasing the other vehicle after a hit earlier

The death of a 27-year-old event management professional in a car crash in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district early on Monday raises fresh questions about safety of women in the State, with passengers accompanying the deceased alleging that the vehicle was chased by men in another vehicle.

The West Bengal Police, however, denied allegations of harassment, and instead said the vehicle of the deceased was chasing the other vehicle.

The victim, Sutandra Chattopadhyay, who hails from Chandannagar in Hooghly district, was on her way to Gaya. The driver and a fellow passenger of her car said a group of five men in the other vehicle were making indecent comments and remarks directed at her.

According to the police, the two vehicles had a brush with each other outside a petrol pump in Budbud, around 141 km from Kolkata, at 12.06 a.m. on Monday. The driver of the deceased woman's car, Rajdutt Sharma, said the offending vehicle hit their vehicle just outside the petrol pump and then chased their vehicle for about 20 km.

The vehicle of the deceased woman overturned at Panagarh on Grand Trunk Road, about 20 km from Bud Bud. She was sitting in the back seat of the car.

"We can say there was an attempt to overtake. CCTV videos show the vehicle of the victim chasing the other vehicle," Sunil Kumar Choudhury, Commissioner of Durgapur Asansol Police Commissionerate, said.

Disposable cups made of plastics were found in the offending vehicle, indicating that the men might have been consuming alcohol in the vehicle.

M.P. receives proposals of over ₹3 lakh crore on first day of mega investor meet

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Adani Group, Reliance Industries, National Thermal Power Corporation, Avaada Group and Hindalco Industries were among the major companies that committed to invest in Madhya Pradesh on the inaugural day of the State's Global Investors Summit (GIS) in Bhopal on Monday.

The State government signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth more than ₹3 lakh crore at the two-day summit inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The MoUs were inked in various sectors such as renewable energy, trade, innovation and skill development.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Modi said that Madhya Pradesh was turning into a preferred investment destination and this was the right time to invest in the State with a strong talent pool and thriving industries.

Narendra Modi

"Madhya Pradesh is the fifth largest State of India in terms of population. It is among the top States of India in terms of agriculture and is also among the top five States of the country in terms of minerals. It has every possibility, every potential, to be among the top five States of the country in terms of GDP," Mr. Modi said.

In a veiled attack at the State's Congress regime before 2003, Mr. Modi said that industrial development in the State was a challenge two decades ago but later BJP governments had focused on good governance.

Among the significant investment proposals received by the State, the Adani Group promised ₹1.1 lakh crore into pumped storage, cement, mining, smart meters and thermal energy. The Group's chairman, Gautam Adani, said that the move will create 1.2 lakh employment opportunities by 2030.

NTPC Green Energy Ltd. signed an MoU with Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company Ltd. for renewable power generation projects with an investment of ₹1.2 lakh crore.

The Reliance Industries also entered into an MoU with the State for investment of ₹60,000 crore for biofuel based projects.

Avaada Group chairman Vineet Mittal announced an investment of ₹50,000 crore in renewable energy projects over the next five years.

Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries promised an investment of ₹15,000 crore over the next five years.

Our aim is to reach defence exports worth ₹50,000 crore by 2029, says Rajnath Singh

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India had achieved 88% self-sufficiency in ammunition production, and defence exports had reached about ₹23,000 crore in 2023-24.

He was speaking at the 16th Foundation Day of the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh.

"Our goal is to reach ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029," Mr. Singh said.

Economic growth

The Minister said the government was committed to creating a robust defence industry in India, which supported the security of the nation and contributed to the country's economic growth.

He called upon IIT-Mandi students to contribute to this vision by focusing on technological solutions that would enhance India's defence capabilities and further advance the nation's self-reliance in this critical sector.

Rajnath Singh

Emphasising the necessity of innovation and knowledge-creation in shaping the future of technology, Mr. Singh underscored the importance of fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation that would allow India to lead in emerging fields, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digital technologies.

He asked the students to excel in technological innovation in order to make India a developed country by 2047, and advised them to follow the principles of "initiate, improve, and transform (IIT)".

"India's technological sector is on the rise and is expected to reach $300-350 billion dollars in the next five years. With more than 1.25 lakh start-ups and 110 unicorns, our country is emerging as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," Mr. Singh said.

Digital economy

The Defence Minister highlighted India's digital economy.

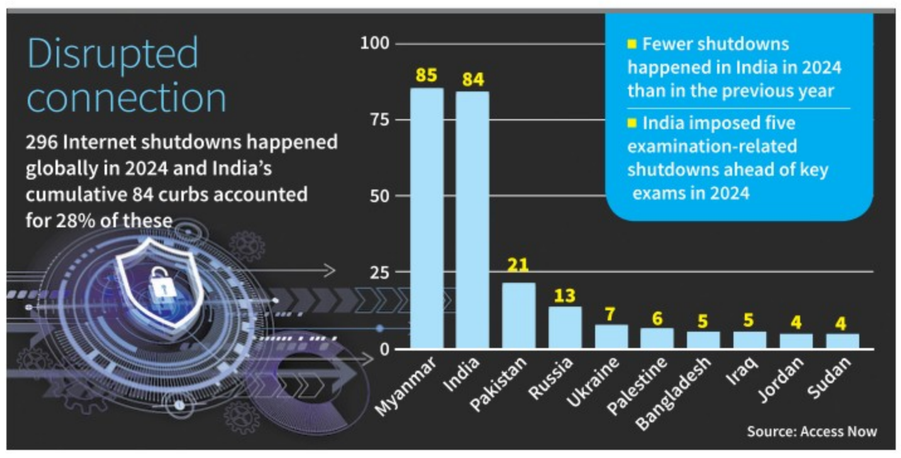
"India's telecom sector is now the second-largest in the world. With the success of initiatives like UPI (Unified Payments Interface), India is setting global standards in digital transactions. We are in the midst of an unparalleled digital revolution. The students should actively contribute to the development of India's digital ecosystem as technological innovation is central to India's growth story in the coming decades," Mr. Singh said.

Internet shutdowns highest in 2024 globally, India tops in government-ordered curbs

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

India did not impose the highest number of Internet shutdowns last year, with Myanmar seeing one additional disruption in 2024, according to a report by the advocacy body Access Now. However, the number of shutdowns imposed by the government in charge – the Union and State governments here – is still higher in India.

Fewer shutdowns happened in India in 2024 than in the previous year. "People in 16 States and [Union] Territories experienced a shutdown, with State Government officials in Manipur (21), Haryana (12), and Jammu & Kashmir (12) topping the list of offenders in India," the report said.



"Of the 84, 41 shutdowns were related to protests, and 23 were related to communal violence."

More shutdowns happened globally in 2024 than in any past year.

In all, 296 Internet shutdowns happened globally in 2024, the report found, and India's cumulative 84 curbs accounted for 28% of these. Eighty-five were imposed in Myanmar, and 11 of these were a result of other countries and groups: "China imposed two [shutdowns on areas in Myanmar] and Thailand four, while the exiled National Unity Government (NUG), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) imposed one shutdown each in areas they controlled. The remaining two shutdowns were imposed by unknown parties," the report said.

A particular focus of anti-shutdown advocates' ire has been examination-related shutdowns. India imposed five such shutdowns ahead of key exams in 2024. One was during the General Graduate Level Combined Competitive Examinations in Jharkhand, which took place for five-and-a-half hours from September 22 morning through the afternoon.

That same month, Assam imposed similar shutdowns in most districts for government job exams.

Rajasthan issued a shutdown for the Rajasthan Public Service Commission exam in January. Exam-related Internet shutdowns are a disproportionate response to the possibility of cheating in exams, Access Now said.

Doctors above politics, says Mamata as she hikes salaries

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a hike in the salaries of government doctors. She said that doctors were above any kind of politics,

The salary of senior doctors will be hiked by ₹15,000 a month and that of interns, house staff, and postgraduate trainees will be increased by ₹10,000 a month, Ms. Banerjee, who also holds the Health portfolio, told a gathering of doctors.

The decision comes months after doctors took to the streets over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the R.G. Kar Memorial College and Hospital in Kolkata.

'Kumbh panel will also look into loss of life and property'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government told the Allahabad High Court on Monday that it had expanded the scope of the judicial inquiry commission on the Maha Kumbh stampede to also inquire into loss of lives and property.

The State government had constituted the three-member panel to ascertain the factors and circumstances that led to the stampede on January 29. It was also asked to give suggestions to prevent such incidents in future.

The State has also extended the tenure of the judicial commission by one month.

USAID: Cong., BJP take swipe at each other

Opposition party cites Finance Ministry report to say none of the seven USAID projects being implemented is related to voter turnout, while ruling party says the former is trying to deflect blame, adds that India's governance will not be dictated by foreign agents masquerading as benefactors

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As stated in the Finance Ministry's annual report for 2023-24, USAID is currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with the Government of India... Not a single of these projects has to do with voter turnout
JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress leader
The USAID projects in question are official govt.-to-govt. partnerships, transparently executed as Externally Aided Projects. The Centre simply channels these funds to States... which is well within the framework of cooperative federalism
AMIT MALVIYA
BJP IT cell head

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday again targeted the Congress over the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding issue, saying the party and its "ecosystem" were "desperate" to deflect blame.

The Congress, however, said the USAID was currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with the Union government, and none were related to voter turnout, as per a report from the Finance Ministry.

The BJP's Information Technology Cell head, Amit Malviya, posted on X: "The desperation of the Congress and its ecosystem of journalists and influencers to deflect from the controversial USAID funding – routed through various George Soros-linked fronts and a labyrinth of NGO structures to meddle with India's electoral process – is a dead giveaway. It is now obvious who the beneficiaries are."

Mr. Malviya's statement came in response to a post by Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh.

Mr. Ramesh said: "None other than the Union Finance Ministry has thoroughly exposed the lies of the PM and his jhoot brigade, including his dapper External Affairs Minister. As stated in the Finance Ministry's annual report for 2023-24, USAID is currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with the Government of India, with a combined budget of approximately $750 million. Not a single of these projects has to do with voter turnout. ALL of them are with and through the Union Government."

'Official partnerships'

Replying to his remarks, the BJP leader said: "...let us be clear –the USAID projects in question are official government-to-government partnerships, transparently executed as Externally Aided Projects (EAPs). The Centre simply channels these funds to States for development, which is well within the framework of cooperative federalism."

He said: "In fact, the very projects cited in the Finance Ministry's 2023-24 report (uploaded in July 2024) trace their origins back to 2010-11. This isn't new – even the 2014-15 report confirms the same. The question is: why is the Congress defending covert interference by foreign donors and organisations linked to George Soros, which seek to destabilise our democracy under the guise of philanthropy? India's sovereignty is not up for sale."

"Let us drop the selective amnesia and political theatrics. Facts matter. India's governance will not be dictated by foreign agents masquerading as benefactors," Mr. Malviya said.

Decide soon on J&K MP's bail plea: HC to NIA court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the special NIA court to expeditiously decide the bail plea of Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid, who is currently in jail in a terror funding case.

A Bench said, "The ASJ-03, Patiala House Court is requested to dispose of the bail application of the petitioner expeditiously."

The observation was made during the bail hearing of Mr. Rashid who alleged that he was forced to approach the court as there was no remedy available to him as the NIA court left him in limbo post his becoming an MP.

House panel members question govt. on impact of corporate tax cut

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, during a six-hour meeting on Monday, questioned the government on the impact of the corporate tax cut introduced five years ago.

As part of a review of the Union Budget, during recess of the Budget Session of Parliament which will reconvene on March 10, the Standing Committee headed by BJP MP Bhartuhari Mahtab met officials from the departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Public Enterprises, Investment and Public Asset Management, and Revenue.

At a meeting, they sought answers on whether the 2019 tax cut had increased private investment

According to sources, many Opposition members sought answers from the Finance Ministry on whether the corporate tax cuts introduced in September 2019 had increased private investment.

"The government has forgone revenue of nearly ₹1.84 lakh crore due to corporate tax cuts in just the first two years of implementation of this cut. It is a valid question to ask that in lieu of giving up this revenue, what has been the corresponding private investment," one of the Opposition MPs said.

Segueing into this debate were questions about how the government planned to meet the shortfall arising out of the income tax rebate announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on February 1. "With this measure, the government is forgoing income tax receipts of ₹1 lakh crore. How will the government meet this shortfall, considering the already unhealthy debt-to-GDP ratio," another member said. There were also questions on the number of "zero-filers" after the changes in the income tax slabs.

The BJP MPs, according to sources, also used the opportunity to allege "harassment" caused by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. They highlighted the complicated slabs and arbitrary arrest powers. One of the BJP MPs asked for a detailed review of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), asking for the number of successful convictions upheld by the Supreme Court so far.

Assam CM built a business empire, bought lands in tribal areas: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Assam on Monday to take part in a host of programmes, including inaugurating the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit, the Congress mounted a scathing attack on Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma alleging large-scale corruption.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa on Monday. PTI

At a press conference on Monday, Jitendra Singh, party general secretary in charge of the State; Assam Congress chief Bhupen Borah; Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia; and Lok Sabha members Gaurav Gogoi, Rakibul Hussain and Pradyut Bordoloi said the "double *dhokha* (betrayal) government" would be held accountable for its "sins" in the Assembly election next year.

Mr. Hussain, who was allegedly attacked by BJP supporters a few days ago in Assam, alleged that the Chief Minister had links with the underground militant outfit, the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). It was "recorded in a government affidavit" in 1999, he said.

The Congress offensive against Mr. Sarma came days after he had accused Mr. Gogoi's wife, a British national, of having links with Pakistan.

"Himanta Biswa Sarma has built an entire empire in Assam. The CM, his family members and associates own many tea gardens, news portals, a big outlet of McDonald's, international schools and lots of lands. A lot of land has been purchased in tribal areas, including Majuli, Kamrup, Guwahati, Nagaon, Golaghat, where land cannot be bought," Mr. Singh said.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Modi ji has set up a factory of 'jumlas (rhetoric)' in Assam, whose mastermind is the most corrupt Chief Minister of the BJP. Recently, Congress leaders in Assam were attacked both ways – politically and physically! The public will respond to these attacks by forming a Congress government after one year."

Banned Jamaat floats new political outfit in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A faction of the banned socio-religious group Jamaat-e-Islami floated a new political party in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. It pledged to raise people-centric issues, with an aim to contest the upcoming panchayat elections in the Union Territory.

The JeI faction named the new political outfit Justice and Development Front (JDF) at a convention held in Kulgam on Sunday.

The move came against the backdrop of a number of JeI members contesting the 2024 Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir after three decades of political boycott. The JeI is planning an official launch of the new outfit in Srinagar soon.

'Will take part in polls'

"The new party is an extension of the JeI. It will carry forward the JeI's ideological and political objectives. In 2024, we actively participated in the Assembly election. The new outfit will take part in all elections and will rely on the sympathy and support of JeI cadre," former JeI member Shameem Ahmad Thoker said.

Mr. Thoker was nominated as the president of the JDF.

"Irrespective of who rules Jammu and Kashmir, our party will fight for issues such as jobs. It will stand with the government whenever it talks about well-being and welfare of people," Mr. Thoker said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	Improvement of Road in the district of Bolangir under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2024-25
2.	No. of Work	2 (Two) works.
3.	Time for Completion	9 (Nine) calendar months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost varies from	Rs.337.55 lakhs to Rs.376.64 Lakhs.
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-13/2024-25	27.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	13.03.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	12.03.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	17.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir
O-1536 : OIPR-25118/11/0025/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/12373/2024-25		Date: 24.02.2025
1.	Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia Ductile Iron Pipeline for filling Gottigere and Kammanahalli lakes with treated water from Hulimavu 10MLD STP coming under Gottigere Service Station of AEES-1-3 Sub-division. CALL-2.	Rs. 245.80 Lakhs / Rs. 3.69 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/12374/2024-25		Date: 24.02.2025
2.	Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia DI Pipeline for filling lakes with treated water from Splended lake Breeze Apartments Private STP to Begur lake coming under Begur Service Station of AEES-2-2 Sub-division. CALL-2.	Rs. 104.23 Lakhs / Rs. 1.56 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/12375/2024-25		Date: 24.02.2025
3.	Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia DI Pipeline for filling lakes with treated water from Prestige Casabella & Elite Green Wood Apartments Private STP to Chikkathogur lake Prestige Casabella & Elite Green Wood Apartments Private STP to Yelenahalli - BTM Residency Lake coming under Begur Service Station of AEES-2-2 Sub-division. CALL-2.	Rs. 174.48 Lakhs / Rs. 2.61 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/12376/2024-25		Date: 24.02.2025
4.	Work of providing and laying of 150mm, 200mm & 300mm dia DI feeder water supply network to facilitate water supply facilities to Aircraft Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., AECS Layout 'A' Block at Singasandra, Ward No. 191, Begur Hobli, Bangalore coming under HSR Layout Service Station of AEES-1-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 215.03 Lakhs / Rs. 3.22 Lakhs

For all above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: 12.03.2025 upto 17:00Hrs. The Tenders will be opened on: 14.03.2025 after 17:00Hrs.
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RA/5270/2024-25 Chief Engineer(South).

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARETMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for supply of (1) 48,00,000 Kgs of Sugar(S-30), (2) 1,80,000 Kgs of Tamarind, (3) 23,00,000 Nos of Coconuts, (4) 40,000 Kgs of Roasted vermicelli (Branded) (5) 22,000 Kgs of Groundnut seeds (6) 10,000 Nos of New Empty Gunny Bags (50 Kgs Capacity) through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.
For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.342) Date:24-02-2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा और पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
Supply of Human Resources हेतु दर संविदा
(ई -बोली आंमत्रण सूचना संख्या 07/2024-25 (क्रमांक 358 दिनांक 21.02.2025))
इस विश्वविद्यालय के अधीनस्थ ईकाइयों में Supply of Human Resource हेतु दो कवर बिड (तकनीकी व वित्तीय बिड) में दर संविदा हेतु ऑनलाइन ई–बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसमें पंजीकृत फर्मो हेतु डी. एस. सी. के माध्यम से दिनांक 22.02.2025 से 15.03.2025 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक बोली प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर अपलोड कर सकते है। UBN No. : VAU2425SLRC00131 का विस्तृत विवरण स्टेट पोर्टल की वेबसाईट htttp//sppp.raj.nic.in विभाग की वेबसाईट www.rajuvas.org एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/24/12185 वित्त नियंत्रक

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम, जोधपुर
Tel: 0291-2651750, E-mail: rj_acejo@nic.in
क्रमांक: अमुअ/जो./प्रथम / 24-25 / 10903-10919 दिनांक : 13/02/2025
बिड संशोधन सूचना संख्या - 1, NIB संख्या 17, 25, 21, 27, 24/2024-25
इस कार्यालय की निविदा संख्या 17 25, 21, 27, 24-2024-25 के निविदा प्रपत्र में संशोधन https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https:sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।
1. निविदा संख्या 17 /24-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB08967) (Tender ID : 2025_PHCJO_445718_1
2. निविदा संख्या 25 / 24-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB08975) (Tender ID : 2025_PHCJO_445736_1
3. निविदा संख्या 21 / 24-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB08971) (Tender ID : 2025_PHCJO_445725_1
4. निविदा संख्या 27 / 24-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB08977) (Tender ID : 2025_PHCJO_445742_1
5. निविदा संख्या 24 / 24-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB08974) (Tender ID : 2025_PHCJO_445733_1
(दिनेश कुमार नागोरी)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिक विभाग, क्षेत्र प्रथम जोधपुर
DIPR/C/2160/25

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INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)
CIN: L74899DL1999GOI101707
Notice Inviting E-Tender: GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (Through two bids system) for setting up of Food Plaza (FP) & Fast-Food Unit (FFU) at Railway stations over Southern Railway & South Western Railway.

Sl. No.	Unit Type	E-Tender No.	Sale of Tender	Last Date & Time for Submission of E-Tender
1	FP & FFU	SZ/NIT/FP-FFU/2025/01	25.02.2025	19.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs.

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on website:- <www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC>
In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website <www.irctc.com>

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 20-02-2025 to 23-02-2025
Directorate of Animal Husbandry
Tender ID: 2025_DAH_741104_1 * Chief Disease Investigation Officer * LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS AND ALLIED EQUIPMENT * Closing Date: 17-Mar-2025 * PAC: Rs36134000
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:20-23/Feb/2025/PRD/(N)9

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No.10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A stip down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)
Dept: HOD Operation GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of :

1	Tender Enquiry No. 016/GATP/DFA01/FY2526 dated 24/02/2025 "(TENDER FOR LIFTING OF DRY FLY ASH)" at 2x270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specification.'

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24/02/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP 08/25 76155/12/3949/2023/41984

GRIDCO LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, ODISHA
CIN : U40109OR1995SGC003960
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF POWER
Tender No - GRIDCO/MEDIUM/LUMPSUM/2024-25/02
GRIDCO Ltd. has issued a tender for procurement of 150 MW RTC and 150 MW Peak Power from Inter-state/ Intra-state sources on Medium term open access basis through DEEP e-bidding portal for the period of 4 years extendable by 2 years starting 01.04.2025.
Interested bidders may please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com/www.gridco.co.in for detailed terms and conditions and visit the site from time to time for further details/information/ corrigendum etc.
Chief General Manager (PP)
CAD-2672 OIPR-04056/11/0018/2425

INBRIEF

Jaishankar, heads of missions of 61 countries visit Kaziranga

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and heads of missions of 61 countries took elephant and jeep safari rides in the Kaziranga National Park on Monday, officials said. The envoys arrived in Jorhat along with the Minister on Sunday night and reached the park early on Monday morning. The Ambassadors first took the elephant safari inside the park's central range at Kohora with Mr. Jaishankar riding the famed elephant Pradyumna. Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Kaziranga Lok Sabha member Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, park director Sonali Ghosh and Divisional Forest Officer Arun Vignesh accompanied the guests during the safari. PTI

Regional circular economy meet in Jaipur from March 3

India will host the 12th regional 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) and Circular Economy Conference in Asia and the Pacific in Jaipur from March 3 to 5, Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal announced here on Monday. The event will centre on the theme of "Realising circular societies towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and carbon neutrality in Asia-Pacific", he said at a press conference here. Over 500 international and domestic participants are expected to attend the three-day conference next month, packed with plenary sessions, country-specific discussions and theme-based round-tables.

Emission intensity targets to be released by month-end

Industries will have a year to set up compliance measures; trading in carbon credits likely to begin by October 2026; Indian carbon market establishes framework to reduce, remove, or avoid GHGs

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union government is expected to announce emissions intensity targets for nine industrial sectors by February-end – a crucial step to operationalise India's carbon trading scheme. Following this, these industries will have a year to put in place compliance measures to cut emissions, and trading in carbon credits is likely to begin by October 2026, Saurabh Diddi, Director, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power, told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a conclave here on India's carbon markets.

Despite a notification by the BEE in June 2023 announcing a carbon credit trading scheme, and follow-up notifications in March 2024 on the industrial sectors that would have to mandatorily comply, emissions intensity targets have not been specified. Without these, it will not be possible to generate or trade carbon credits.

The Indian carbon market establishes a framework to reduce, remove, or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Indian economy. It achieves this by pricing the greenhouse gases emission reduction through trading of carbon credit certificates.

Industries in India will not be required to cut carbon emissions, rather they must produce their goods more efficiently. AP

Different types of carbon markets exist globally. In European emission trading markets, every carbon credit represents a tonne of carbon dioxide prevented from getting into the atmosphere. Its price fluctuates and is determined by whether companies, which must comply with government-mandated emission caps, manage to meet them or choose to buy credits from companies that have cut more emissions than they were required to. These carbon credits can then be traded like shares.

In the case of India, industries will not be required to cut carbon emissions. Rather, they must produce their goods – for example, a kilogram of steel – more efficiently. This can mean implementing technology that will burn, say, in this instance, less coal to produce that same kilogram of steel. Or recover the heat from burning a kg of steel and reusing it.

Emissions intensity refers to the amount of greenhouse gases emitted per unit of activity. The nine sectors that must comply with emission intensity targets in India are iron and steel, aluminium, chlor-alkali, cement, fertilizers, pulp and paper, petrochemicals, petroleum refineries, and textiles.

"We have been having multiple consultations with industry in these past months and we are almost ready with the targets. Along with the compliance scheme (of emission intensity) there is also a market emerging of voluntary offsets. We are hoping that these offset markets can begin trading even this year, provided certain criteria are met," Mr. Diddi said.

Voluntary offsets refer to measures undertaken by private individuals, including afforestation, that can trap carbon dioxide as commercial projects. These too generate carbon credits and companies sell them, internationally as of now, to those that require them to meet the compliance regulations. As part of its climate commitments, India has said it will reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP at 45% of 2005 levels by 2030.

PM names celebrities to add heft to battle against rising obesity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi has called upon people to make simple yet impactful changes in their diet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to reduce consumption of edible oil by 10% and fight obesity. Stating that cases of obesity had doubled in the past few years, Mr. Modi, in a social media post on X on Monday, nominated industrialist Anand Mahindra, IT entrepreneur Nandan Nilekani, actor Mohanlal and others to spread awareness of the need to fight obesity.

In the 119th episode of his monthly *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme on Sunday, the Prime Minister highlighted the alarming increase in obesity, particularly among children, and noted that it affected one in eight Indians.

"In order to build a fit and healthy nation, we must address obesity. If every household reduces oil consumption by just 10% each month, it can lead to significant health benefits,' Mr. Modi said calling upon people to make simple yet impactful changes in diet.

Chain of awareness

Those he nominated and tagged included actor R. Madhavan, singer Shreya Ghoshal, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shooter Manu Bhaker, actor-politician Dinesh Lal Yadav (Nirahua), and author-politician Sudha Murty, encouraging them to nominate 10 more people and create a chain of awareness. "As mentioned in yesterday's #MannKiBaat, I would like to nominate the following people to help strengthen the fight against obesity and promote reduced oil consumption in food. Let's work together to make India fitter and healthier," he said.

In his radio address, Mr. Modi spoke about significant health concerns and India's mission to become tuberculosis-free by 2025. He urged citizens to participate in the "Nikshay Mitra" programme to support TB patients via community engagement.

Weekly rest for pilots will be raised to 48 hours from July 1: Delhi HC

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday ruled that the weekly rest for pilots will be raised from 36 hours to 48 hours from July 1 with the implementation of the liberalised duty and rest norms announced by the aviation regulator last year.

The court of Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju passed an order on Monday setting July 1 as the date for implementing the new norms announced by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in January 2024 but were put on hold following protest by airlines.

However, some provisions that airlines have vehemently opposed, including those that restrict night flying, have been pushed for a period "on or before" November 1, 2025.

Regulations governing pilot utilisation in unforeseen circumstances have also been tightened. NAGARA GOPAL

The order follows an affidavit from the regulator last week on the proposed implementation timeframe following several rounds of court-ordered mediation held by it between airlines and pilot unions.

Effective July 1, airlines will have to provide weekly rest of continuous 48 hours so that there are no more than "168 hours (or 7 days) between the end of one weekly rest period and the start of the next". The current rest period is 36 hours.

Quarterly report

Airlines will be required to submit to the DGCA a quarterly report of fatigue complaints raised by pilots and action taken on them.

From November 1, the definition of night duty will be widened to include duty between midnight and 6 a.m., instead of midnight and 5 a.m. As airlines cannot assign pilots for duty for more than two consecutive nights, the new definition will effectively reduce the quantum of night flying.

Further, pilots cannot be given more than eight hours of flying, or total 10 hours of duty period which includes pre- and post-flight tasks, for flights during night duty. The number of landings during night duty has been capped at two.

The implementation of additional 24 hours of rest on top of 120 hours of rest after two consecutive ultra long-range flights such as those to the U.S. has been deferred till November.

Additionally, regulations governing pilot utilisation in unforeseen circumstances – such as inclement weather, medical emergencies – have been tightened.

'Kota Cares' initiative rolls out steps to support students in coaching hub

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To tackle stress among students preparing for competitive exams and the rise in cases of suicide, the district administration of Kota on Monday announced a comprehensive set of reforms for student welfare in the premier coaching hub in Rajasthan.

Nearly 1.25 lakh students throng Kota for coaching classes annually.

Young hopefuls: Nearly 1.25 lakh students throng Kota annually for coaching classes. R.V. MOORTHY

The reforms, said to have been developed with stakeholder consultations under the "Kota Cares" initiative launched in December 2024, introduce changes in student housing, safety protocols, and support systems. "Kota Cares" brings together the district administration, coaching institutes, hostel associations and local communities to enhance student well-being. The reforms include elimination of caution deposits across 4,000 hostels; standardisation of maintenance charges with a ₹2,000 annual cap; transparent payment systems with mandatory receipts for all transactions; clear guidelines for room changes and vacation policies; mandatory gatekeeper training for all hostel staff; installation of modern safety infrastructure, including CCTV and biometric systems; special provisions for women's hostels, with women wardens; compulsory certification of installation of device to prevent death by hanging; and no-objection certificates for fire prevention.

For student well-being, free access to the Chambal riverfront has been extended, as also dedicated recreation areas in all hostels. Mid-term vacation food services will be available, and emergency medical services provided at all times. "Kota Cares" helpdesks will be provided at railway stations and bus stands, and a city-wide network of student support centres established. The district administration has set up a monitoring mechanism to gather feedback for improvement.

"'Kota Cares' is about reimagining how we support the lakhs of students who come to our city chasing their dreams," District Collector Ravindra Goswami said.

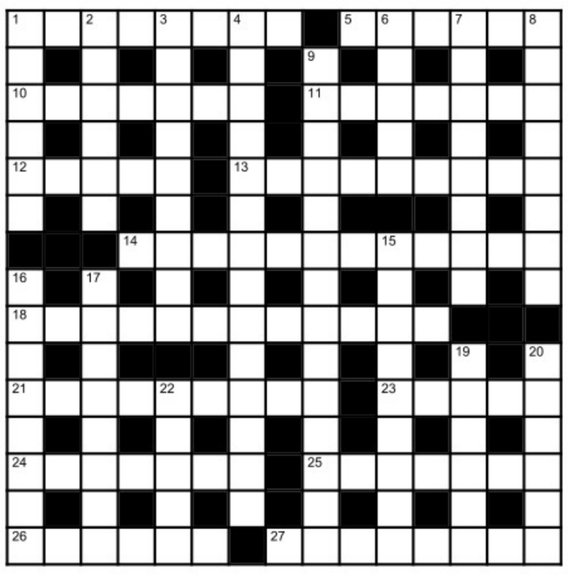
"Through these comprehensive reforms, we are creating a support system that addresses every aspect of student life – from affordable housing to mental health support to recreational needs. This is about transforming Kota into a city that cares for its students as much as it coaches them."

TH CROSSWORD + 14417

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Check a boy worried about a pain in the spine (8)
5 Starts to catch obnoxious bugs with expertly built snare (6)
10 Hit leader of gang smuggling pot in Thai city (7)
11 Start to opine on budget speech (7)
12 Sturdy men easily capture rebellious adversary (5)
13 Intimacy in passionate scenes featuring star making a comeback (9)
14 According to consumer, meat's terrible (12)
18 Woman taken in by wiliest male made a bloomer (5,7)
21 Helps with aches in leg (7,2)
23 Bank fraud (5)
24 Use up new antidote, saving five hundred (3,4)
25 Gossip's story about couple of models getting close to star (7)
26 Trap vile husband seen cuddling maiden (6)
27 Row after troublesome person loses head resulting in divorce (8)

Down

1 Spirited song of lieutenant enthralled by drink (6)
2 Advance to seize power with large force (6)
3 Regardless of consequences, sack nasty actor right away (2,3,4)
4 What greedy broker wants in embassy (4,10)
6 Egg-shaped container in old base (5)
7 Wave with foamy crest is wide, struck with rising velocity (8)
8 Expelled Hungary's captain after a revolting offence in ground (8)
9 Ordered gang on the sly to do whatever is necessary (2,2,3,7)
15 Learn about revolutionary liberating eastern capital (4,5)
16 Opener is injured in compound (8)
17 Join up to entertain kid with a little unusual spinning top (8)
19 Endlessly thinking about lady in fine cotton fabric (6)
20 Aircraft pilot's concern in ascending, for certain (1-5)
22 Open incomplete files (5)

SUDOKU

	2	9	1					5
5			9		2			
		8		5	3		7	
				4		6		
7		6				2		4
		1		2				
	7		2	6		5		
			7		9			6
9					5	8	3	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R	
N		O		U		L		T
A	S	S	U	M	E	D		E
C		S		B		E		R
T	W	I	N	E		R	U	R
S		P		R		S		O
			N	O	T	T	U	R
S		T		N		A		S
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T
I		R				E		R
F	U	N	A	B	A	S	H	I
F		O		U		M		C
I	M	P	E	R	I	A		K
E		I		N		N	E	
R	E	L	A	T	E		I	N

C	O	M	B	A	T			
T		C		A		A		
E	A	T	E	N	U	P		
R		A		D		E		
R	U	R	A	L	I	S	E	S
O				M		T		
T	U	R	N	A	H	A	I	R
V		N		Y				
A	T	I	O	N				
R		I		E		D		
A	S	H	I		D	O	U	S
A		C		A		C		S
R	I	A		K	I	N	S	H
C		R		O				
E	S	T						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	8	1	4	7	5	3	2
1	5	4	9	3	2	8	7	6
2	7	3	6	5	8	4	9	1
3	2	7	8	9	1	6	5	4
5	4	9	2	6	3	1	8	7
6	8	1	4	7	5	9	2	3
8	9	6	3	2	4	7	1	5
7	1	2	5	8	6	3	4	9
4	3	5	7	1	9	2	6	8

FAITH

Sri Guna Ratna Kosa

Parasara Bhattar's Sri Guna Ratna Kosa describes the qualities of Lord Ranganayaki, which may be taken to refer to the qualities of Sri Devi. There are commentaries for this work in Telugu and Sanskrit. Thirumalai Nallan Chakravarthy Ramakrishna Iyengar and Prativadhi Bhayankaram Annangaracharya wrote commentaries for Sri Guna Ratna Kosa. While Parasara Bhattar praised Lord Ranganatha of Srirangam in his Rangaraja Stava, he praised the Goddess of Srirangam – Ranganayaki – in his Sri Guna Ratna Kosa. There are many similarities between the two works, elaborated T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse.

A literary work must have certain features. First of all, it must have a good hero or heroine. The writer must have a fertile imagination. Every word in the work must be apt. The language used should be majestic. There should be sabda rasa too, which means apart from the meaning being appealing, the very sound of the words must be appealing. There should be bhaava rasa. The emotions that prompted the words must be evident. The author's vocabulary must be wide. Pillai Lokam Jeer wrote a commentary for Manavala Mamunigal's Yatiraja Vimsati, and he said that whatever was in Manavala Mamunigal's heart had come out vividly in the work. Both Sri Rangaraja Stava and Sri Guna Ratna Kosa have all the qualities that mark a great work. But Sri Guna Ratna Kosa is superior, because only through the grace of the Goddess we can approach Lord Narayana. Kalidasa's ability in coming up with similes, and Murari Kavi's unique way of presenting facts – are all seen in Sri Guna Ratna Kosa, making it a great contribution to Visishtadvaitic literature.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,454	-1.14
US Dollar	86.72	-0.04
Gold	89,100	0.39
Brent oil	74.74	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2115.15	-17.95
Adani Ports	1070.40	-12.85
Apollo Hosp	6251.40	-66.15
Asian Paints	2246.20	-11.40
Axis Bank	1010.05	1.10
Bajaj Auto	8446.95	-59.10
Bajaj Finserv	1857.80	-21.55
Bajaj Finance	8354.95	-41.75
Bharat Elec	256.35	0.25
Bharti Airtel	1601.30	-37.95
BPCL	251.00	-0.30
Britannia Ind	4804.30	-27.60
Cipla	1476.75	1.00
Coal India	364.80	-5.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1164.55	12.75
Eicher Motors	5010.80	48.35
Grasim Ind	2393.70	-37.35
HCL Tech	1644.05	-56.65
HDFC Bank	1677.10	-15.40
HDFC Life	617.00	-5.85
Hero MotoCorp	3884.85	32.25
Hindalco	641.90	-11.65
Hind Unilever	2241.45	-0.20
ICICI Bank	1218.35	-14.60
IndusInd Bank	1029.15	-14.60
Infosys	1764.10	-50.90
ITC	401.90	1.00
JSW Steel	966.80	-15.10
Kotak Bank	1966.10	13.05
L&T	3257.70	-57.40
M&M	2709.20	39.85
Maruti Suzuki	12345.20	21.75
NestleIndia	2220.40	5.45
NTPC	320.10	-6.15
ONGC	234.35	-5.55
PowerGrid Corp	259.15	-2.75
Reliance Ind	1214.55	-13.60
SBI Life	1486.50	-8.90
State Bank	716.40	-5.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	577.20	-7.90
Sun Pharma	1639.50	-4.25
TataConsumerProduct	1002.40	-1.60
Tata Motors	668.25	-4.95
Tata Steel	137.65	-3.11
TCS	3675.60	-110.40
Tech Mahindra	1613.70	-35.80
Titan	3173.00	-6.90
Trent Ltd.	5066.00	17.80
UltraTech Cement	11042.65	-114.60
Wipro	295.05	-11.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.50	86.82
Euro	90.55	90.89
British Pound	109.31	109.72
Japanese Yen (100)	57.78	58.00
Chinese Yuan	11.93	11.98
Swiss Franc	96.16	96.52
Singapore Dollar	64.66	64.91
Canadian Dollar	60.84	61.07
Malaysian Ringitt	19.60	19.69
Australian Dollar	55.06	55.27

Source:Indian Bank

Indian tech industry revenue projected to grow 5.1% even as job loss concerns persist

About 55% CEOs surveyed expected hiring to plateau or reduce in FY26; some CEOs sought to approach changes brought in by AI with "paranoia", stressing this would ensure competitiveness

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

Amid concerns over jobs shrinking due to the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM) has projected the Indian technology industry's revenue growth at 5.1% to $282.6 billion in FY 2025-26.

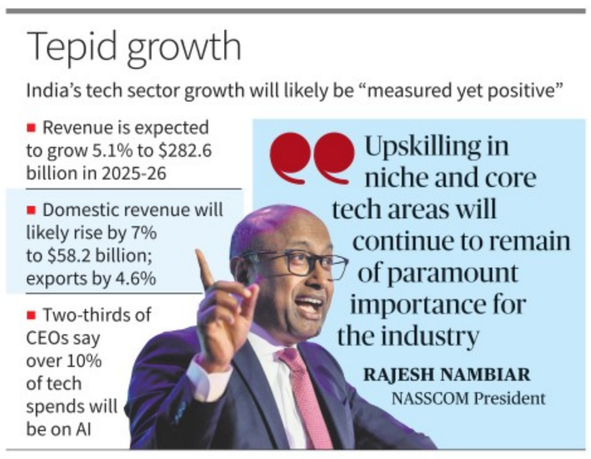
"While the CEO outlook for FY26 remains measured yet positive, with increased tech and AI spending, sustaining the growth momentum requires a strategic vision," Rajesh Nambiar, the President of NASSCOM, said at the 33rd NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum here on Monday.

'Upskilling a priority'

"However, upskilling in niche and core tech areas will continue to remain of paramount importance for the industry," he added.

Domestic revenue is projected to grow at a faster 7% to $58.2 billion as compared with revenue growth in exports at 4.6%.

The proportion of IT Services and Engineering research and development (R&D) will continue to dominate in the total revenue, according to the NASSCOM Annual Strategic Review 2026.


Tepid growth
India's tech sector growth will likely be "measured yet positive"
Revenue is expected to grow 5.1% to $282.6 billion in 2025-26
Domestic revenue will likely rise by 7% to $58.2 billion; exports by 4.6%
Two-thirds of CEOs say over 10% of tech spends will be on AI
Upskilling in niche and core tech areas will continue to remain of paramount importance for the industry
RAJESH NAMBIAR
NASSCOM President

While the estimated growth is robust, the report also stated that about 55% of the CEOs surveyed believed that hiring was expected to stay the same or reduce in fiscal 2026.

About two-thirds of them said that more than 10% of the tech spends would be on artificial intelligence.

In a media briefing, Fractal co-founder Srikanth Velamakanni, reiterated the data saying companies would spend more on technology than human resources.

In another session, the CEOs of HCL and Infosys C. Vijayakumar and Salil Parekh sought to approach changes resulting from AI adoption with "paranoia" and not be complacent about them. They said this would ensure firms emerged as "winners".

'State to emerge AI hub'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted that the State would emerge as an AI hub. He said this would be an important step toward Maharashtra becoming a $1 trillion economy.

In the final session, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said the response to the tender to procure 10,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) was encouraging and that they had received orders for 18,000 units, all for less than a dollar per unit. Mr. Vaishnaw said that the industry had to maintain competitiveness.

"I request that to maintain competitiveness of the industry, NASSCOM as a body and the government, must put our maximum effort on creating that pipeline of time," he said.

DBS Bank may cut 4,000 jobs in 3-5 years: CEO

Ashokamithran T.

About 4,000 employees may lose their jobs in the next three to four years owing to Artificial Intelligence (AI)," Piyush Gupta, CEO of DBS Bank said at the event.

This would be a tenth of the company's workforce, he added.

"My current prediction, in the next three years, we'd shrink our workforce by 4,000, 10%. And that is because, AI is different," Mr. Gupta said. While he acknowledged that people will continue to find jobs, he said there would be "massive dislocations."

The company's representatives later clarified the job cuts would be limited to temporary or contract employees.

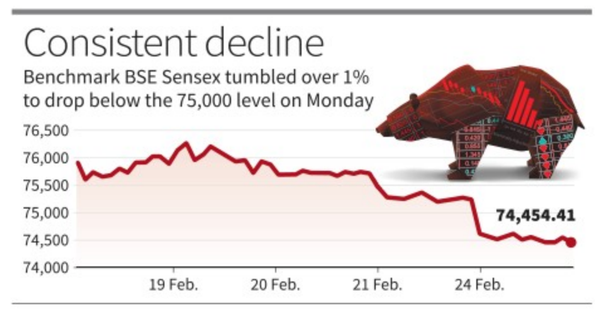
Indices fall to eight-month low on U.S. growth concerns

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices fell more than 1% to their eight-month lows due to growth concerns in the U.S., analysts said.

The BSE Sensex fell 856 points, or 1.14%, to 74,454 points led by IT stocks, while Nifty-50 declined 243 points, or 1.06%, to 22,553. Top losers in the Sensex pack were HCL Tech (3.32%,) Zomato (3.32%), TCS (2.93%), Infosys (2.81%), Bharti Airtel (2.29%) and Tech Mahindra (2.19%). The Nifty IT index fell 3%.

"The Dalal Street indices experienced a sharp drop to an eight-month low as market sentiment remained subdued. The decline was primarily driven by significant losses in heavyweight stocks, especially within the IT sector," said Ameya Ranadive, chartered market technician, CFTe, and senior technical analyst, StoxBox.



"This weakness followed reports of declining consumer confidence in the U.S., casting a shadow over the country's growth outlook. The broader market felt the impact, pulling down both small and midcap indices," he added.

Ten out of 13 major sectoral indices traded lower, with auto, pharma, and FMCG among the three sectors showing positive performance. Nandish Shah - Deputy Vice President, HDFC Securities said, "The Nifty extended its losing streak to a fifth consecutive session, succumbing to weak global cues and shedding 242 points, its lowest close since June 5, 2024."

NSE cash market volumes were notably thin, 16% lower than the previous day and the lowest since January 1, 2025.

Nifty midcap 100 Index ended with the losses of 0.94% while Nifty small cap index closed with the losses of 1.02%. After early morning weakness, both Nifty midcap and smallcap Indices recovered nearly 1% from the intraday low.

Working with FSSAI, other bodies to regulate industry: Spices Board

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Spices Board is working with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and other regulatory agencies to bring in more regulations for the industry to usher in sustainable approaches and conservation-driven strategies to develop the industry, its secretary P. Hemalatha said.

In addition the Spices Board has implemented stringent quality control measures, including mandatory ethylene oxide (ETO) testing for EU exports, to enhance food safety and compliance, she said, at the the International Spice Conference organised by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) here on Monday.

Addressing evolving regulatory challenges, Ms. Hemalatha underscored the Board's commitment to harmonising global spice standards through active participation in the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs, facilitating smoother trade and reducing technical barriers.

INBRIEF

M&M unveils Scorpio-N Carbon special edition SUV

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has introduced Scorpio-N Carbon Edition Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) to mark the sale of two lakh units of Scorpio-N since its introduction. "The Scorpio-N Carbon expands the realm of Mahindra's authentic SUVs with design and sophistication," M&M said. The interiors have premium leatherette seats and contrast deco-stitching. Available exclusively in Z8 and Z8L seven-seater variants in metallic black, prices range between ₹19.19 lakh and ₹24.89 lakh ex-showroom.

New India Co-op depositors can draw up to ₹25,000: RBI

Days after imposing several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank (NICB), RBI on Monday permitted customers to withdraw up to ₹25,000 from their deposit accounts beginning February 27. Over '50 depositors would be able to withdraw their entire balances', RBI said in a release. On February 13, the financial regulator had imposed a ban on deposit withdrawals on the Mumbai-based cooperative bank amid supervisory concerns. The RBI superseded the board of directors of NICB for 12 months. PTI

India's manufacturing slump prompted Feb. rate cut: RBI

A sharp slowdown in India's manufacturing sector – a key driver of job creation – was a major factor in the monetary policy committee's (MPC) decision to cut the key repo rate earlier this month, an external member told *Reuters*. "In particular, there was a concern about the weaknesses of the manufacturing sector, which is important for job creation, due to subdued urban consumption and slow private investment growth," Nagesh Kumar said, adding the views were his own and not of the panel. The sector grew 2.2% in September quarter, much slower than 7% growth seen in the June quarter. REUTERS

Private corporate sector revenue up 8% in Q3FY25: RBI data

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sales of listed private non-financial companies increased 8% year-on-year (YoY) during Q3FY25 compared with 5.4% in the previous quarter and 5.5% in the year-earlier period, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday.

Sales revenue growth of 1,675 listed private manufacturing companies improved to 7.7% during Q3FY25 from 3.3% in the previous quarter, mainly driven by higher sales in automobiles, chemicals, food products and electrical machinery industries.

Sales revenue of petroleum, iron and steel and cement industries, however, contracted.

Information Technology (IT) companies recorded a rise of 6.8% in sales in Q3 from 3.2% in the year-earlier period while non-IT services firms logged 11.5% sales growth compared with 12.9% rise in the same period last year.

Manufacturing firms' raw material cost rose 6.3% in consonance with sales growth, whereas staff cost recorded a higher increase of 9.5%; staff cost of IT and non-IT services companies increased by 5% and 12.4%, respectively, the data by RBI showed.

India, U.K. resume FTA negotiations

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Declaration comes days after U.S. President Trump criticised India for high trade tariffs

India and the United Kingdom (U.K.) on Monday restarted negotiation for a trade pact. The announcement was made jointly by Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and the Trade Secretary of the U.K. Jonathan Reynolds who is visiting here. Addressing a joint press conference, the visiting Trade Secretary said the trade pact is of 'top priority' for the government of Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"Both sides have agreed to resume negotiations toward a balanced, mutually beneficial and a forward looking deal that delivers mutual growth and builds on the strengths of the two complementary economies," as per a joint statement at the end of bilateral consultations. The declaration is significant as it came days after U.S. President Donald Trump criticised India for high trade tariffs.

"The two leaders directed the negotiators to work together to resolve outstanding issues in the agreement to ensure a fair and equitable trade deal for shared success," the statement added.

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1st Floor, FKCCI Building,
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Bengaluru-560009

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E-Mail : blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **26.11.2024** calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor– **(1) Mr. Charan Prasad J B** S/o Mr. T P Siddaraju **(2) Mrs. Dakshayani** W/o Mr. Charan Prasad J B **Both are addressed at:** No.D-5, C.A R Quarters, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030 Also at : No.966, 45th Cross, 9th Main, Kumarswamy Layout, II Stage, Bengaluru-560078 to repay an aggregate amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1,25,04,011.76 [Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakh Four Thousand Eleven And Paisa Seventy Six Only] ie Rs.98,85,641.32 under PSOD A/c No. 962700060000601** along with future interest from **01.11.2024; Rs.26,18,370.44 under OD A/c No.9627000100000201** along with future interest from **01.11.2024** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **21st day of February, 2025.**

The borrower/ guarantor/mortgagor/legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Ltd., Bengaluru – Kumarswamy Layout Branch,** for an aggregate amount of **Rs.1,28,91,631.26 [Rupees One Crore Twenty Eight Lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty One And Paisa Twenty Six Only]** ie **Rs. 1,01,79,191.66 under PSOD A/c No. 9627000600000601** along with future interest from **01.02.2025; Rs. 27,12,439.60 under OD A/c No.9627000100000201** along with future interest from **01.02.2025,** plus costs

[Your attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.]

Description of the Immovable Property: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing BDA No.965-EWS, measuring 494 sq ft situated at Kumarswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560078, with building constructed thereon belonging to Mr. Charan Prasad J B. **Boundaries of property as per Document & Actual: East by:** House No.966; **West by:** House No.964; **North by:** Drain; **South by:** Road.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing BDA No.966-EWS, measuring 494 sq ft situated at Kumarswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560078, with building constructed thereon belonging to Mr. Charan Prasad J B. **Boundaries of property as per Document & Actual: East by:** House No.967; **West by:** House No.965; **North by:** Drain; **South by:** Road.

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing EWS House No.261, Municipal No.261, measuring 503.76 sq ft, PID No.55-861-261, Ward No. 55, situated at 6th Main, 2nd Stage, Kumarswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078, with building constructed thereon belonging to **Mr. Charan Prasad J B. Boundaries of property as per Document & Actual:** East by: EWS House No.236; **West by:** Road; **North by:** EWS House No.230; **South by:** EWS House No.262.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 21.02.2025

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer
For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. UMAKANTH B,** is intending to purchase the property from **Mr. S. VIJAYA KUMAR,** Aged about 68 years, S/o. Late. Subbaiah, Residing at: No. 8, Property No. 9/3 Subbaiah Layout, Doddanekkundi Village, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore- 560037.
All that piece and parcel of House Property bearing Site No. 8, Property No. 9/3, Khatha No. 1666/547, E PID Katha No. 8762751779, Situated at **DODDANEKKUNDI Villa ge,** K.R. Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, BBMP Ward No.85, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 30 feet totally Measuring: 1200 Sqft, and bounded as follows: East by : Property No.9/4 belongs to Nagappa Reddy,West by : 20 Feet Road, North by : Site No.7, South by : Site No.9.
Whereas the property consists of Ground floor 9 Squares and First floor 9 Squares of RCC Roofed House Vitrified Flooring, Wooden Doors and Steel Windows, with all basic amenities.
If any person's have any claim, right, title and objection over the above said property, can approach the undersigned with full details within **7 days** from the date of this public notice. Once the sale is completed my client is not responsible for any consequences and he is deemed to be the rightful owner.

S.R. LAW CHAMBERS, Ramesha, Advocate.
No.6, Vasavimahal Road,Krishnarajapura,
Bangalore 560036.
Mob: 8310085780, 9845176092

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. Gangaiah S.L.,** S/o Late. Lakshmanaiah and **Smt. Gangamma B.T.,** W/o Sri. Gangaiah S.L., both are residing at No. 1372, 18th Main Road, 'D' Group Layout, Srigandhadakaval, Bengaluru-560 091, are intend to purchase the schedule mentioned property from **Smt. V.C. Padmalakshmi** W/o Sri. S. Gangadhar, residing at No. G-15, Fortuna Icon Apartment, F-Block, Behind Shanthi Sagar Hotel, Sahakaranagara Post, Bengaluru-560 092 and **Smt. Palyam Kamala Lakshmi,** W/o Sri. Palyam Jagadish, residing at No. 1-4-161/15, Akash Enclave, Near Nikil Bakery, Yapral Alwal, Rangareddy District, Andhra Pradesh-500 087 for valuable consideration. The above said owners represents that they are the absolute owners of the schedule mentioned property and their brother Sri. C. Venkatadri acquired the same under the registered Sale Deed dated : 21-02-2009 and he died as bachelor and after death they are become absolute owners of the schedule mentioned property.

PROPERTY PROPOSED TO BE PURCHASED

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing B.D.A. Site No. 179, B.B.M.P. Khatha No. 179/150/179, situated at 2nd Stage, 6th Block, 9th Cross, Nagarabhavi Layout, Ward No. 129, Gnanabharathi, Bengaluru, measuring East to West : 28-0 Feet and North to South : 20-0 Feet, totally measuring 560 Square Feet, consisting of residential building of 10 Squares, and bounded on ; **East by** : Road, **West by** : Site No. 194, **North by** : Site No. 178 and **South by** : Site No. 180.

The general public are hereby informed that, any person/s/financiear/s having any manner of claim/right/title/interest etc., over the schedule property, may lodge their objections if any with documentary proof/evidence to the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the date of publication, failing which it shall be deemed that nobody have any claim, right, title over the above said property and my clients will proceed with the said transactions. Any claim made by anybody **after 15 days** the same shall not be binding on my clients.

CHIKKAHONNAIAH, Advocate
No.32/17, Mezzanine Floor, Amar Tower,
1st Main, 1st Cross, Gandhinagara,
Bengaluru-560 009. Mob. No. 99000 00528

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 443/2016

BETWEEN: Sri. Pramod .P.S, S/o. P.N. Srinivasa Reddy, aged about 33 years, Residing at Pathanelavanki Village, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District. ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Smt. Kanthamma & others ... **DEFENDANTS**

SUIT SUMMONS TO PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 8 TO 11

PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 8: C.G. Channakeshava, S/o. Late. Giriraja Gowda, aged about 72 years. **PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 9: Chinnaswamy,** S/o. Late. Giriraja Gowda, aged about 70 years, **PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 10: C.G. Purushotham,** S/o. Late. Giriraja Gowda, aged about 67 years, **PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 11: Smt. C.G. Swarajalakshmi,** D/o. Late. Giriraja Gowda, aged about 75 years, All are residing at Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk.

Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit against you for the relief of partition and separate possession and other consequential reliefs as Hon'ble Court deems fit. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader on **12/06/2025** at **11:00 A.M** forenoon, to answer the same failing which the suit will be disposed in your absence placing you exparte.

SCHEDULE

ITEM No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 110 (converted vide conversion order No. ALN(PU.B)(KA))SR/11/2011-12 dated 17.05.2011 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, measuring an extent of 2 acres 1 gunta situated at Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, and bounded on: **East by:** Sy. No. 109, **West by:** Sy. No. 115, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Nagondanahalli Village. **ITEM No. 2:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 30 measuring an extent of 1 acre 29 guntas situated at Nagondanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, (previously Hosakote Taluk) and bounded on: **East by:** Water Canal, **West by:** Road, **North by:** J.B. Ramaya's Property, **South by :** Sy. No. 62. **ITEM No. 3:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 62 measuring an extent of 7 acres 5 guntas situated at Nagondanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, (previously Hosakote Taluk) and bounded on: **East by:** Water Canal and Muniswamy's Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** J.B. Ramaya's Property, **South by :** Muniyamma's Property (part of Sy. No. 62). **ITEM No. 4:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 63 and Sy. No. 64 measuring an extent of 2 acres 29 guntas and 3 acres 30 guntas respectively situated at Nagondanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, (previously Hosakote Taluk) and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Bukkamma's Property, **North by:** Road, **South by :** Channarayaswamy's Property. **ITEM No. 5:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 28/4 and Sy. No. 28/5 measuring an extent of 32 guntas each situated at Channasandra Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, (previously Hosakote Taluk) and bounded on: **East by:** Sy. No. 28/1 (Ratnamma and children), **West by:** Rudrappa's Property, **North by:** Road, **South by :** 28/3 (Munivara Reddy and Kencha Reddy)

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 22/02/2025 at Bengaluru.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial officer, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru

SHANKAR .S.T, Advocate
No. 39/2, Chamber No. 70, 6th Floor,
ASVNV Bhavana, K.G. Road, Bengaluru.

GENEVA

UN warns era of dictators 'can happen again', calls for action

AFP

UN rights chief Volker Turk warned on Monday of a return to an era of dictators, citing past atrocities such as indiscriminate attacks on civilians, population transfers and child labour. He urged urgent action to prevent such "very dangerous" events, cautioning that history could repeat itself. AFP

BRUSSELS

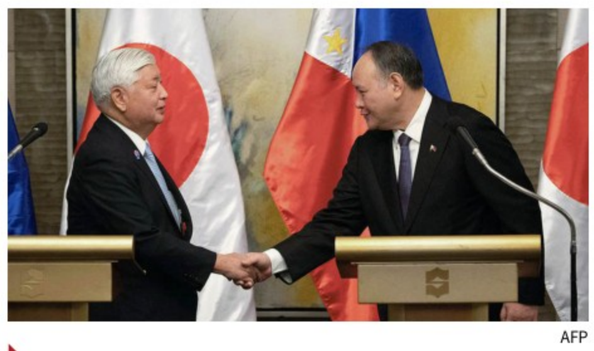
European Union eases sanctions on key Syria economic sectors

AFP

The European Union on Monday eased sanctions on Syria's energy, transport, and banking sectors in a bid to help the country's reconstruction after the fall of Bashar al-Assad. The move aims to support an inclusive transition, with sanctions potentially reinstated if promises are broken. AFP

MANILA

Philippines, Japan agree to further enhance their defence partnership



AFP

Japan and the Philippines agreed on Monday to deepen defence ties amid a "severe" security environment, Japanese Defence Minister Gen. Nakatani said. They will enhance military exchanges, establish a strategic dialogue, and share intelligence to counter China's assertiveness in the East and South China Seas. REUTERS

BANDA ACEH

Indonesian men sentenced to public flogging for gay sex

AFP

A court in Indonesia's Aceh province sentenced on Monday two men to public flogging for gay sex, with one receiving 85 lashes and the other 80. Both men — students at a university — were found together by local residents in a rented room in November. Aceh enforces Sharia law, unlike the rest of Indonesia. AFP

Merz, on course to take Germany's top job, pledges to unite Europe

'We are under such massive pressure, my absolute priority now is really to create unity in Europe,' says the conservative leader; his CDU bloc won Germany's national election with 28.5% of the votes, while the far-right AfD finished second

Associated Press
BERLIN

Friedrich Merz, on course to become post-World War II Germany's 10th Chancellor after the country's election, has vowed to prioritise European unity and the continent's security as it grapples with the new Trump administration and Russia's war on Ukraine.

Mr. Merz's task will be complicated by the need to form a coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats of outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz. He has repeatedly pledged not to work with the far-right anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany despite their second-place finish.

Victory lap: During the election campaign, Friedrich Merz vowed to make Germany's ailing economy strong again. GETTY IMAGES

The 69-year-old conservative leader heads the centre-right Union bloc, which won Germany's national election with 28.5% of the votes.

"I am also aware of the scale of the task that now lies ahead of us," he told supporters after his victory on Sunday night. "The world out there isn't waiting for us, and it isn't waiting for long-drawn-out coalition talks and negotiations."

The top job has been late in coming for Mr. Merz, a lawyer by profession, who saw his ascent derailed by former Chancellor Angela Merkel in the early 2000s and even turned his back on active politics for several years. Despite his political experience, he is heading to the chancellery without previously having served in government.

Mr. Merz was elected party leader in his third attempt, after the centre-right's defeat by current Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Germany's 2021 election. Mr. Merz cemented his power by also becoming the leader of the Union's parliamentary group.

During the election campaign, Mr. Merz vowed to make Germany's ailing economy strong again and curb irregular migration.

With President Donald Trump back in the White House, Mr. Merz said after his victory that his top priority is to unify Europe in the face of challenges coming from the U.S. and Russia.

"I have no illusions at all about what is happening from America," he told supporters. "We are under such massive pressure ... my absolute priority now is really to create unity in Europe."

Xi affirms 'no limits' partnership with Putin in phone call

Reuters
BEIJING

China's President Xi Jinping reaffirmed his "no limits" partnership in a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, China's state media reported, on the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The leaders held the talks as U.S. President Donald Trump has pushed for a quick deal to end the Ukraine war, raising the prospect that Washington could draw a wedge between Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin and focus on competing with the world's second largest economy.

The call appeared aimed at dispelling any such prospects – the two leaders underscored the

Xi Jinping

durability and the "long-term" nature of their alliance, with its own "internal dynamics" that would not be impacted by any "third party".

"China-Russia relations have strong internal driving force and unique strategic value, and are not aimed at, nor are they influenced by, any third party," said Mr. Xi, according to the official readout.

Trump, Putin discuss 'major' deals as part of peace efforts

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he and Russian leader Vladimir Putin are discussing "major" economic deals as part of discussions on ending the war.

"I am in serious discussions with President Vladimir Putin of Russia concerning the ending of the War, and also major Economic Development transactions which will take place between the United States and Russia. Talks are proceeding very well!" Mr. Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. Mr. Trump issued the statement after being joined by French President Emmanuel Macron at the White House for a conference call with other G-7 leaders.

Ukraine war will only halt with deal that 'suits' Moscow: Russia

Agence France-Presse
ANKARA

Kremlin said it was trying to settle the conflict, but that Europe wanted the war to 'continue'

Russia said on Monday it was ready for talks on the three-year old war in Ukraine but would only stop fighting when a peace settlement "suits" Moscow.

Russia also said it was trying to settle the Ukraine conflict with the United States, but that Europe wanted the war to "continue".

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks in Turkiye on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with uncertainty hanging over U.S. support for the war-torn country under President Donald Trump and Kyiv ceding ground to Moscow on the front line.

Mr. Lavrov said Moscow was ready to negotiate with Ukraine, Europe or "any representatives who in good faith would like to help achieve peace".

Mr. Lavrov also called on the U.S. to appoint a representative for future peace talks with Russia, after what he said were his "positive" discussions in Saudi Arabia last week with Marco Rubio.

Festive fire

Countdown to Easter: Revellers look at a bonfire, as Bulgarians celebrate Mesni Zagovezni, an Orthodox Christian holiday marking the beginning of the Easter fasting during which they chase away evil spirits with fire rituals, in the village of Lozen, near Sofia, on Sunday. AFP

U.S. resolution urging end to Ukraine war fails to get UNGA nod

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

In a win for Ukraine on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion, the United States on Monday failed to get the UN General Assembly to approve its resolution urging an end to the war without mentioning Moscow's aggression. And the Assembly approved a duelling European-backed Ukrainian resolution demanding Russia immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

It marks a setback for the Trump administration in the 193-member world body, whose resolutions are not legally binding but are seen as a barometer of world opinion. But it also shows some diminished support for Ukraine, whose resolution passed 93-18, with 65 abstentions. That's lower than previous votes, which saw over 140 nations condemn Russia's aggression.

The United States had tried to pressure the Ukrainians to withdraw their resolution in favour of its proposal, according to a U.S. official and a European diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity. They refused, and then the Assembly added language to the U.S. proposal making clear that Russia invaded its smaller neighbour in violation of the UN Charter.

Residents attack Bangladesh air base, soldiers open fire

Associated Press
DHAKA

A group of residents in southern Bangladesh on Monday attacked an Air Force base following an altercation, prompting soldiers to open fire that killed at least one and wounded several others, local media reported.

The Inter Service Public Relations – the media wing of the military – in a statement said the "miscreants" attacked the Bangladesh Air Force Base near Cox's Bazar's Samitipara.

The violence broke out after soldiers challenged a man on a motorbike for not wearing his helmet, according to *Prothom Alo*.

Recurrent strife: Bangladesh has faced challenges in establishing order since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. AFP

The military in a later statement said a local resident had been brought inside the base for questioning as he did not have the necessary documents for his motorcycle. It said about 200 people from nearby Samitipara advanced on the base while personnel blocked their path, and a clash ensued, with stones thrown.

The military said several personnel were injured. It said personnel had fired blank rounds, not live ammunition, at the residents.

Indian companies added to list as Britain, EU announce additional Russia-related sanctions

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Pratik Corporation is new to the list, with sanctions commencing from February 25

The EU and the U.K. marked the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine with a slew of additional sanctions related to Moscow and those doing business with it. Indian entities are among those impacted by these measures. The move came as several Western heads of government, including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, visited Kyiv in a show of support for Ukraine.

The 16th package of EU sanctions included 83 individual listings – 48 people and 35 entities who were subject to an asset freeze. EU sanctions included new criteria for owners or operators of Russia's "shadow fleet" of ships or those benefiting from Russia's military-industrial complex, an EU statement said. The bloc added 74 vessels to its sanctions list.

Another 53 new entities, including one new Indian entity, were found "supporting the Russian military-industrial complex or engaged in sanctions circumvention", according to a document released by the EU. The other non-Russian entities had origins in China (including Hong Kong), Kazakhstan, the UAE, Uzbekistan, Türkiye and Singapore.

Totally, there are four Indian companies listed for EU sanctions. One of them, Pratik Corporation, is new to the list, with sanctions commencing from February 25. The company, with a registered office in Mumbai, makes products for automotive applications and "asset management services for industrial applications" as per its website.

The other three entities are Innovio Ventures (sanctioned June 25, 2024), Triac Electronics (sanctioned December 17, 2024) and Si2 Microsystems Pvt Ltd (sanctioned February 23, 2024).

"This new round of sanctions not only targets the Russian shadow fleet but those who support the operation of unsafe oil tankers, videogame controllers used to pilot drones, banks used to circumvent our sanctions, and propaganda outlets used to spout lies, said the EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas.

On Monday, the U.K. announced 107 new sanctions on Russian entities and those connected with Moscow. This included producers of dual-use goods for the Russian military, including microprocessors used in weapons systems. These entities are based in third countries including Central Asian states, Turkiye, Thailand, India and China, the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said.

Inussia Impex, which is described as an "India-based company that has exported Common High Priority goods, including western-produced microelectronics, to Russia" is on the U.K.'s sanction list.

For the first time, the British sanctions also included non-Russian banks: the OJSC Keremet Bank in Kyrgyzstan.

SEIZING THE INITIATIVE

Kohli points out why Gill is the No. 1 batter in ODI cricket

AP

Virat Kohli praised Shubman Gill's knock and felt that getting a quick start was crucial in the win over Pakistan. "It was important to get runs when there was pace on the ball; otherwise, the spinners could dictate things. Shubman did well against Shaheen (Afridi) and took him on. There's a reason why he's the No. 1 (ODI) batter in the world".

CANDID ASSESSMENT

Saud, Abrar mince no words following crushing defeat to India

REUTERS

Pakistan players Saud Shakeel and Abrar Ahmed minced no words following the crushing defeat to India. "We did not play well in all three departments. We are losing wickets in bunches and are not building big partnerships," said Shakeel. Abrar added, "We have to change many things within the group and improve our batting and bowling".

MISSING ELEMENTS

We weren't brave enough and lacked energy on the field: Rizwan

AP

Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan rued the lack of intent from his side after Sunday's loss. "We made the same mistake that we have been making in the past four matches. The Indian team put in more effort than us and were braver than us. We didn't show enough bravery and lacked energy on the field because we made mistakes".

DIFFERENT CHALLENGE

I was doing the math for Kohli's hundred, reveals Axar

PTI

As Virat Kohli neared his century against Pakistan, India's Axar Patel turned into a human calculator, to make sure the superstar reached his milestone. "At the end, *main bhi thoda maths kar raha tha unke hundred ke liye* (I was doing the math for his hundred towards the end). So, it was quite fun," Axar told ICC.

Rachin powers NZ into the semifinals

The five-wicket win over Bangladesh also takes India into the last four; defending champion Pakistan crashes out along with the Tigers

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
RAWALPINDI

A large number of spectators turned up at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Monday, hoping for Bangladesh to pull off a stunner against New Zealand and keep Pakistan alive in the Champions Trophy semifinals race.

A defeat against India had dented Pakistan's hopes of making the knockouts, but the fans were still hoping against hope.

After putting up a modest 236 for nine, it was a promising start by Bangladesh fast bowlers Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana, dismissing Will Young and Kane Williamson inside the first three overs.

However, Rachin Ravindra had different plans. Having missed out on the tournament opener after being struck by the ball on his forehead during the tri-series earlier this month, Rachin (112, 105b, 12x4, 1x6) returned to action in style, bringing up his fourth ODI century as New Zealand stormed into the semifinals with a five-wicket win. India also advanced while it was curtains for both Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Rachin came in at No. 4 for the first time in his ODI career with New Zealand reeling at 15 for two. He took a bit of time to settle in and dealt Rana and Taskin with caution before forging two crucial partnerships – 57 for the third wicket with Devon Conway, followed by a decisive 129-run stand with Tom Latham – to tun the tide in favour of the Kiwis.

Taking charge: Rachin put the Black Caps chase back on track after they lost Young and Williamson cheaply. GETTY IMAGES

As Bangladesh bowlers failed to make inroads, Rachin and Latham (55, 76b, 3x4) made the most of sloppy fielding.

Rachin continued with aggression and maintained a healthy strike rate. While he got a reprieve shortly after reaching the ton, Rachin couldn't maximise it and fell to leg-spinner Rishad Hossain.

But by then, New Zealand was on the cusp of victory.

Earlier, there were 181 dot balls in Bangladesh's innings, despite captain Najmul Hossain Shanto's 110-ball-77. Put in, it lost regular wickets, with Michael Bracewell claiming a four-for.

The scores: Bangladesh 236/9 in 50 overs (Shanto 77, Jaker 45; Bracewell 4/26) lost to New Zealand 240/5 in 46.1 overs (Rachin 112, Latham 55).
Toss: New Zealand.
PoM: Bracewell.

ODI master Kohli rediscovers rhythm and range in inimitable fashion

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Coming into the Champions Trophy, Virat Kohli was under pressure following a lean 2024.

In Tests late last year, his most productive shot, the cover drive, had become his kryptonite as bowlers ruthlessly exploited his weakness outside off-stump and had him caught behind or in the cordon.

Similarly, the former India skipper looked vulnerable against spinners in white-ball cricket recently and seemed like a pale shadow of the batter who had topped the run charts in the 2023 ODI World Cup.

In the opening fixture against Bangladesh, Kohli was tied down by tweakers Rishad Hossain and Mehidy Hasan Miraz before the former dismissed him.

It was his sixth straight dismissal to a spinner in ODIs.

However, ahead of the crucial contest against Pakistan, the 36-year-old left no stone unturned to rediscover his mojo.

He came in an hour earlier for practice on the eve of the match, mostly working on his game against the spinners.

After a break, he took throwdowns at one end of the ground, did the same in the nets towards the end of the session, and was one of the last to leave.

On Sunday, all those efforts bore fruit as he etched his name in the record books to become the fastest to 14,000 one-day runs in his 287th visit to the crease, taking 63 fewer innings than Sachin Tendulkar.

Trademark: Kohli had a busy night, stealing ones and twos while spearheading India's chase. AP

And he got there in inimitable style, punching Haris Rauf for the first of his two hits to the fence through covers in that over, which set the tone for his unbeaten century.

Relieved

Speaking to broadcasters after the game, Kohli sounded relieved to find his rhythm and range again.

"To be honest, it feels good to be able to bat in that manner in an important game to seal qualification and contribute (after) we lost Rohit early," he said. While the Delhi batter was far from his best against Pakistan leggie Abrar Ahmed, he was able to see off that phase – thanks largely to partner Shreyas Iyer too – and capitalise later.

"(I) had to put in the understanding of what we learnt in the last game. My job was to control the middle overs against the spinners without taking too many risks. It allowed me to play my usual ODI game," he added.

On a slow surface where scoring boundaries was progressively harder once the ball became old, rotating the strike was paramount. Kohli was able to tap into his incredible fitness levels to achieve that. While his knock only contained seven hits to the ropes, he scurried through for 13 twos.

"I have a decent understanding of my game; it is about keeping the outside noise away, staying in my space and taking care of my energy levels and thoughts. It is very easy to get pulled into the expectations. My job is to stay in the present and do a job for the team," said Kohli.

A crucial hundred in a high-profile encounter while closing out the chase should take a huge weight off Kohli's shoulders.

South Africa and Australia in a battle of equals

Shayan Acharya
RAWALPINDI

Temba Bavuma is bullish about South Africa's chances in the Champions Trophy despite the team sweating over Heinrich Klaasen's fitness ahead of Tuesday's marquee fixture against Australia.

Having missed out on the tournament opener last week with an elbow injury, Klaasen's fitness is still being assessed by the medical team.

Both teams enter the game on the back of convincing wins. Australia would expect Jos Inglis, the hero of the record chase against England, to continue in the same vein while South Africa would look to Ryan Rickelton, the century-maker against Afghanistan, to fire again.

The Proteas would rely on their star-studded batting line-up featuring Aiden Markram, captain Bavuma and David Miller. Bavuma felt that this could be another high-scoring game.

After chasing down a mammoth total (351) on a flat deck in Lahore, the Aussie batters would be hoping to do well on the Rawalpindi surface which is also expected to be a batting beauty. The onus will be on the top-order to perform better than it did against England.

In the previous game, Australia left out Sean Abbott and brought in Ben Dwarshuis, who made inroads with the new ball.

Ecclestone's incredible show helps Warriorz snatch victory from the jaws of defeat

WPL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

UP Warriorz edged out Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in a dramatic Super Over finish in the Women's Premier League at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

With 18 runs needed in the final over of regulation play, UP Warriorz tailender Sophie Ecclestone hammered pacer Renuka Singh for two sixes and a four.

Ecclestone nearly pulled off the impossible all on her own, but settled for a single off the fifth ball.

Run out

Kranti Goud only needed to score one run off the final delivery, but a play and miss allowed RCB wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh to run up to the stumps and catch Ecclestone short of the crease.

In the Super Over, UP Warriorz managed eight runs. RCB batters Smriti Mandhana and Richa Ghosh dropped the ball, scoring just four runs.

Ecclestone's whirlwind knock helped Warriorz tie the match
After her side managed just eight in the Super Over, the left-arm spinner conceded just four

After being put in to bat, RCB rode on a 56-ball 90 from Ellyse Perry to finish on 180 for six.

Perry on song

The Australian, who made 81 in the previous match, moved past Meg Lanning as the highest run-scorer in WPL history. Perry became the first player to breach the 800-run mark in the tournament.

Perry and Danni Wyatt-Hodge (57, 41b, 4x4, 3x6) put on a lively 94-run second-wicket stand – the backbone of the Royal Challengers essay.

The UP Warriorz chase got a flying start through the blazing blade of Kiran Navgire (24, 12b, 4x4, 1x6).

Royal Challengers called on the experienced Renuka, who castled Kiran with an inswinger. Renuka struck again in her next over, taking out Vrinda Dinesh. Captain Deepti (25, 13b, 4x4, 1x6) and Shweta (31, 25b, 4x4) kept UP Warriorz afloat.

The visitor relied on West Indian powerhouse Chinelle Henry to work her magic in the death overs, just as she did in the previous outing.

An inside edge onto the stumps, however, put RCB in the driver's seat. That was until Ecclestone tore up the script.

The scores: Royal Challengers 180/6 in 20 overs (Danni Wyatt-Hodge 57, Ellyse Perry 90 n.o.) tied with UP Warriorz 180 in 20 overs (Deepti Sharma 25, Shweta Sehrawat 31, Sophie Ecclestone 33, Renuka Singh 2/36, Kim Garth 2/40, Sneh Rana 3/27). **Super Over:** Warriorz 8/1 bt RCB 4/0.
Toss: UP Warriorz.
PoM: Ecclestone.
Tuesday's match: Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Giants, 7.30 p.m.

Super Sophie! Just when the match seemed to be slipping away, Ecclestone knocked the wind out of RCB's sails. K. MURALI KUMAR

Disappointing day for India

PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

"The girls were determined to give their best to make it a special day for Savita and they gave their everything, I can't ask for more than that," coach Harendra Singh admitted after India's 2-4 loss to World No. 1 – the Netherlands – in the FIH Hockey Pro League here on Monday.

The Indian women, coming off a morale-boosting win against Germany, played their best game of the competition so far despite the loss

Locked 1-1 at half time - itself a surprise given the Netherlands' domination and India's struggles - the Dutch stretched the Indians wide and used the flanks to get into the circle.

Felice Albers struck twice, from acute angles on either side of the goal while Fay van der Elst struck once and Udita got both of India's goals through PCs. In fact, India could have struck a couple of goals more but for the Dutch goalkeeper Anne Veenendaal, who brought off several saves in one-on-one situations.

On target: Ward scored a brace in England's win. BISWARANJAN ROUT

At the other end, both Savita Punia and Bichu Devi did well to deny the Dutch but there was only so much they could do.

The men, however, failed to maintain their winning momentum, going down 2-3 to England, wasting eight PCs and unable to find a way past goalkeeper James Mazarelo.

Abhishek and Gurjant tried from open play, Harmanpreet, Jugraj and Nilam Xess from PCs but nothing could get past Mazarelo.

Sam Ward struck twice for the winner, taking full advantage of a lethargic Indian defence.

The German men, recovering from their narrow loss to India, thrashed Ireland 8-2, scoring twice in each quarter with seven different players getting their names on the scoresheet.

The results: Men: Germany 8 (Prinz 7, Struthoff 10 & 59, Kaufmann 28, Hartkopf 30, Mertgens 42, Schwarzhaupt 44, Peillat 56) bt Ireland 2 (Nelson 27, McKibbin 29); India 2 (Abhishek 18, Hardik 39) lost to England 3 (Payton 15, Ward 19 & 29).

Women: India 2 (Udita 18 & 42) lost to The Netherlands 4 (Reijnen 7, Albers 34 & 47, van der Elst 40).

INBRIEF

Salah a gift that keeps on giving for Liverpool

Mohamed Salah continued to make the case that this is his greatest season ever as he broke records in Liverpool's 2-0 Premier League win at Manchester City on Sunday and the talisman said the campaign was his personal favourite. Salah scored Liverpool's first goal – his 25th in the league this term – and set up the second by Dominik Szoboszlai as Liverpool moved 11 points clear at the top, putting his name alongside a couple more records in the process. Salah became the first player in Premier League history to be involved in 40-plus goals in two different seasons, with 25 goals and 15 assists in this campaign after 32 goals and 10 assists in 2017-18. "I don't know," Salah said when asked if he was playing at his best-ever level. "It is opinion. Maybe people prefer my first seasons or now but I prefer now because (closing on) winning the league, helping the young players, it is special. "Me and the big guys in the team, we need another title." Meanwhile, Luka Modric said it was "special" to score in front of the home fans in Real Madrid's 2-0 win against Girona. The victory moved the defending champion level on points in the Spanish league with leader Barcelona.

The results:

Serie A: Cagliari 0 lost to Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 12).

LaLiga: Real Sociedad 3 (Zakharyan 12, Kubo 48, Olasagasti 80) bt Leganes 0.

Bengaluru races for March 15 advanced to March 14

The Stewards of Bangalore Turf Club, have decided to advance the 23rd day races scheduled to be run on March 15 (Saturday) to March 14 (Friday).

Venus turns down wild-card entry at BNP Paribas Open

The 44-year-old Venus Williams will not be playing at the BNP Paribas Open, the tournament organisers revealed on Sunday – days after they announced she would be competing there with a wild-card entry. "Our team has been informed that Venus is not accepting the wild card this year," the event posted on social media, saying it was a message from Indian Wells tournament director Tommy Haas. "We wish Venus all the best and hope to see her back in Indian Wells in the future".

Savita – The Wall gets its 300th brick

The ace goalkeeper becomes only the second Indian woman after Vandana to reach the milestone, gets emotional on reaching the landmark; she has grown remarkably in the role of captain after taking over post the Tokyo Olympics and has been grooming Bichu Devi for the future

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Savita Punia allowed herself a few seconds of moist eyes, turning away from the cameras and pretending to get her gear in order before wiping off her tears, smiling just a little, getting ready for the national anthem.

It was her 300th game with the Indian team.

Ever-alert: Savita has been a rock in the Indian goal over the years. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Overwhelming

For someone who has shied away from attention for a large part of the 17 years she has worn the India jersey, staying hidden behind her helmet at one end of the field, being in the spotlight bang in the middle of the hockey turf for the world to see was clearly a bit too overwhelming.

That Savita is only the second Indian woman player to reach the milestone, after Vandana Katariya last year, made it even more special.

As a goalkeeper who has rarely been allowed a break from national duty in the past decade, playing every game for the entire duration, Savita is one of those who have been synonymous with Indian women's hockey through all the highs and lows.

Thrust into the limelight after being handed the captaincy post Tokyo Olympics, Savita gradually grew in the role, understanding it came with extra responsibilities.

"I have understood that there are things you have to do whether you like or not, not because you don't have a choice but because they need to be done and you cannot pick and choose your responsibilities to the sport," she told *The Hindu*.

Setback

But the setback at the Paris Olympics qualifiers meant an overhauling of the team core with a new captain.

That heartbreak and her marriage around that time almost led to her calling time on her career before the federation and the new coach Harendra Singh convinced her to continue.

A leader

And it was good she did. Savita still remains a leader with her experience and position on the field affording her an extended vision of the entire game.

At 34, Savita is also the senior-most player in the Indian squad and a rarity to have continued for so long.

She is grooming Bichu Devi to eventually take over, the latter getting more and more play time over the last few months.

But Savita's rare display of emotions on Monday made it clear she still has a lot in her left.

CSK appoints Sriram as assistant bowling coach

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) signed former India all-rounder S. Sriram as its assistant bowling coach ahead of IPL 2025. Sriram joins a coaching staff led by Stephen Fleming (head coach), Mike Hussey (batting coach), and Eric Simons (bowling consultant).

With Dwayne Bravo having joined Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as mentor, Sriram effectively replaces him at CSK.

Sriram served as the assistant coach of the Australian cricket team from 2016 to 2022. He was also Bangladesh's T20 consultant during the Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup in 2022. He returned as a technical consultant to the Bangladesh team before the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Sridharan Sriram. FILE PHOTO

He was also involved in coaching duties with Delhi Daredevils (Delhi Capitals now) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Most recently, he was the assistant coach of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) last season.

No change in Vidarbha squad for Ranji final

Press Trust of India
NAGPUR

Vidarbha on Monday retained the 17-member squad to take on Kerala in the Ranji Trophy final to be played at the VCA Stadium here from Wednesday.

"VCA's senior selection committee, which met on Monday, decided to retain the same squad that did duty in the semifinal against Mumbai. Akshay Wadkar will lead the side," the Vidarbha Cricket Association said on Monday.

The squad: Akshay Wadkar (capt & w.k.), Atharva Taide, Aman Mokhade, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Akshay Karnewar, Yash Kadam, Akshay Wakhare, Aditya Thakare, Darshan Nalkande, Nachiket Bhute, Siddhesh Wath (wk), Yash Thakur, Danish Malewar, Parth Rekhade, Karun Nair, and Dhruv Shorey.

High Command claims the Heritage Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's High Command, ridden by A. Ashad Asbar, claimed the Heritage Plate, the main event of Monday's (Feb. 24) races. The winner is owned by Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Nair.

LEADING OWNER: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah with leading stakesmoney of ₹86,29, 654.15.

LEADING TRAINER: D. Netto (22 winners).

LEADING JOCKEY: Akshay Kumar (27 winners).

LEADING APPRENTICE JOCKEY: Shivansh (five winners).

CHAMPION HORSE: Duke Of Tuscany (15 points).

HORSE OF THE SEASON: One N Only and Darling's Boy (tie).

1. TIME AND PLACE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): HANUMANMAHABALA (Neeraj Rawal) 1, N R I High Power (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Sharanga (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Authoritarian (Gaurav) 4. 2-1/4, 2 and 1. 1m, 12.82s. ₹44 (w), 14, 11 and 14 (p). SHP: 57, THP: 43, SHW: 19 and 13, FP: 89, Q: 27, Tanala: 322. Favourite: N R I High Power. Owners: M/s. Balam Mohla, Vara Prasad Reddy & Sultan Singh. Trainer: N. Rawal.

2. OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,200M): COSMICO (Vivek G) 1, Shoolin (B. Nikhil) 2, Amboseli (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Flashing Memories (R.S. Jodha) 4. 3-3/4, 6-1/2 and 4-3/4. 1m, 12.78s. ₹16 (w), 10, 24 and 12 (p). SHP: 78, THP: 42, SHW: 10 and 72, FP: 170, Q: 153, Tanala: 481. Favourite: Cosmico. Owners: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula & Mr. Srinivasa Rao Thota. Trainer: Magan Singh.

3. MOSSY BANK PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): RAGNAROK (B.R. Kumar) 1, Pontefract (P. Ajeeth K) 2, The Thunder (Gaurav) 3 and Dyanoosh (Neeraj) 4. 2, 3/4 and 2. 1m, 12.04s. ₹45 (w), 13, 34 and 16 (p). SHP: 92, THP: 42, SHW: 21 and 86, FP: 382, Q :295, Tanala: 2, 350. Favourite: She Can. Owners: Mr. Donald Anthony Netto & Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. P. VEERESHWAR RAO MEMORIAL CUP (1,400M): ANNHILATOR (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Just Incredible (P. Sai K) 2, Great Giver (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Burgundy Black (Akshay K) 4. 4-1/4, 2-1/4 and 2. 1m, 27.18s. ₹13 (w), 10, 13 and 15 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 42, SHW: 10 and 32, FP: 56, Q: 49, Tanala: 115. Favourite: Annhilator. Owners: M/s. Srikanth Badruka, Rama Seshu Eyunni & Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

NOTE: *Shadow Of Light (Vivek G up) planted in the stalls and did not participate.*

5. REPUBLIC PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): MOST BEAUTIFUL (Shivansh) 1, Lucky Fiero (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Mirzeta (R.S. Bhati) 3 and Iconic Star (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 2. 1m, 15.70s. ₹51 (w), 12, 19 and 32 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 100, SHW: 38 and 45, FP: 343, Q: 201, Tanala: 18, 114. Favourite: Anagha. Owners: M/s. M. Sudheer Reddy, Sharath Chandra Reddy Malipedi & Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

6. MOSSY BANK PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): DARLING'S BOY (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Runlikethewind (Vivek G) 2, Calista Girl (Gaurav) 3 and Strauss (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 2, Short Head and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.14s. ₹35 (w), 10, 34 and 15 (p). SHP: 58, THP: 48, SHW: 17 and 68, FP: 338, Q: 256. Favourite: Decoy. Owners: M/s. S. Daljeet Singh, Mohammed Rashed Ali Khan & Aziz Ahmed Khan. Trainer: M.F. Ali Khan.

7. HERITAGE PLATE (1,800M): HIGH COMMAND (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, N R I Superpower (B.R. Kumar) 2, Siddharth (Akshay K) 3 and Shadow Of The Moon (Alex Rozario) 4. 5, Neck and Neck. 1m, 50.99s. ₹103 (w), 32, 33 and 10 (p). SHP: 120, THP: 52, SHW: 80 and 64, FP: 1,814. Q: 952, Tanala: 8,341. Favourite: Siddharth. Owners: Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. REPUBLIC PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): BLUE BRIGADE (B. Nikhil) 1, Taaliyah (Deepak) 2, Master Touch (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Shubhrak (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 8, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 14.57s. ₹27 (w), 15, 15 and 18 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 41, SHW: 16 and 18, FP: 92, Q: 53, Tanala: 514. Favourite: Blue Brigade. Owner: Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹38,344 (17 tkts.) & 30%: 2,217 (126 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,398 (108 tkts.), (ii) 28,010 (2 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 762 (48 tkts.), (ii) 763 (30 tkts.), (iii) 2,268 (27 tkts.).

Prajwal goes down fighting to Gengel in the first round

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

India's S.D. Prajwal Dev went down fighting to Czech Republic's Marek Gengel 7-6(2), 3-6, 3-6 in an opening round singles match at the Bengaluru Open here at the KLSTA courts on Monday.

The 28-year-old wildcard won the first set in a tie-break after fending off two set-points at 5-6, 15-40, only to be steamrolled in the second, losing it 3-6.

When the local lad fell 0-2 behind in the decider, it seemed all over, but he broke Gengel's serve twice to lead 3-2.

However, Prajwal's 29-year-old opponent reeled off four straight games - including the eighth, a long-drawn multiple-deuce affair - to emerge victorious.

Prajwal showed admirable spirit, and tried his utmost to open up the court and hit penetrating winners.

But a disproportionate number of unforced errors proved his bane even as Gengel's overall superiority - he is No. 251 to Prajwal's 785 - shone through.

Earlier in the morning, India's Karan Singh beat compatriot Aryan Shah to enter the main draw.

Gengel. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mukund Sasikumar, however, bit the dust in the final round of the qualifying, falling to Czech Republic's Hynek Barton in three sets.

The results:

First round: Marek Gengel (Cze) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-3; Nicolas Mejia (Col) bt Elmer Moller (Den) 6-3, 6-4.

Blake Ellis (Aus) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) 6-7(2), 6-4, 7-6(6); Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Justin Engel (Ger) 7-5, 6-2.

Qualifying (final round): Hynek Barton (Cze) bt Mukund Sasikumar 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; Karan Singh bt Aryan Shah 6-4, 7-6(6).

IOA replaces Boxing Federation of India with an ad-hoc committee

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday replaced the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) with an ad-hoc committee as the BFI's "elections have not been held, resulting in administrative instability within the federation."

In a quick response, BFI president Ajay Singh wrote to IOA president P.T. Usha, terming the National Olympic Committee's action as "misconceived, arbitrary and...without following due process" and appealed to withdraw the order immediately.

The IOA highlighted that the BFI had not been able to hold its elections which were to be conducted on or before February 2.

The IOA also cited "numerous complaints" from various stakeholders athletes, coaches and authorities concerned "regarding the non-participation of Indian boxers in various important National/ International events in recent months" as a reason for taking the drastic measure.

The IOA formed an ad-hoc body, comprising Madhukant Pathak (chairman), BFI vice-president Rajesh Bhandari (vice-chairman), Dr D.P. Bhatt, boxer Shiva Thapa and Virendra Singh Thakur. It entrusted the panel with the responsibilities of running the BFI and overseeing its elections.

Singh said the BFI was neither given any prior notice nor any opportunity to present its position.

"It remains unclear whether this decision was taken with the due approval of the IOA Executive Committee, further casting doubt on its legitimacy."

He said no decision could be made on a NSF without prior consultation with the relevant international federation.

While Singh, who needs a two-third majority to be elected for a third term (as per the National Sports Code), mentioned that correspondence regarding the elections had already commenced with the Sports Ministry, a source close to him said the BFI planned to conduct the polls in March. Critics of Singh said that 24 state associations had written to the BFI president to conduct the polls and the BFI had not held sub-junior and junior national championships for four years.

However, a federation source said the BFI conducted 51 National and international championships over seven years.

The BFI source claimed that the IOA order was triggered by some senior federation officials against whom an enquiry panel, headed by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain, was to conduct a hearing on Wednesday on alleged financial irregularities during last year's REC talent hunt events. BFI said it will move the Delhi High Court seeking immediate quashing of the IOA order.

Leading professionals to take part in Chhattisgarh Open golf

Sports Bureau

Some of the leading professionals Om Prakash Chouhan, Udayan Mane, Rashid Khan, Manu Gandas, Aman Raj and S. Chikkarangappa apart from 13 foreign players from seven countries, including Jamal Hossain of Bangladesh will compete in ₹1 crore SECL Chhattisgarh Open golf in Raipur from Tuesday.

"I am delighted to support the staging of the first-ever professional golf event in Chhattisgarh in association with PGTI.

"It will inspire budding golfers in the State to dream big," said the Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Arun Sao, in a press conference on Monday.

The par for 18-hole course is 69.

The top 50 players and the ties will make the cut after two rounds in a field of 123 pros and three amateurs.

LIVE TELECAST

Champions Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.

Hockey: Pro League, Women, India vs Netherlands, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 5.15 p.m.; Men, India vs England, 7.30 p.m.

WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. (Wednesday)

Mendez will be a key player for Bengaluru FC. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru FC eyes win as playoffs spot looms

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC will hope to take a giant stride towards qualifying for the Indian Super League playoffs when it meets Chennaiyin FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Tuesday.

Placed fourth in the table with 34 points from 21 matches, Gerard Zaragoza's men are on a two-game winning run. They also haven't conceded in either match, a notable stat after allowing their opponents breach the defence in 14 straight ties.

The attacking trio of Ryan Williams, Alberto Noguera and Edgar Mendez have been in fine fettle, and so has been captain and talisman Sunil Chhetri.

Chennaiyin, on the other hand, is on the brink, despite two wins on the trot. The Owen Coyle-coached outfit is eighth with 24 points from 21 matches, which is eight points off Mumbai City FC in sixth position - the last playoffs spot.

With just three games remaining, it needs to dish out splendid performances and hope for some divine luck.

The last time the two sides met two months ago, it was an entertaining fare that BFC won 4-2. Another such scoreline will sink Chennaiyin.

"Chennaiyin away was one of our best in attack and I am looking forward to a similar performance," said Zaragoza on match eve. "Chennaiyin cannot afford to lose, and I know that they will fight hard. It will be a tough game."